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Tragedy at Maccabiah ceremony

1 dead, 66 hurt

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, BAT-SHEVA TSUR, HEATHER CHAIT, RAINE MARCUS, and Jerusalem Post Staff**

A pedestrian bridge collapsed at the opening of the 15th Maccabiah Games last night, sending a group of Australian athletes plummeting into the Yarkon River. One person was killed and at least 66 were injured, at least five seriously.

The dead accident victim was a man, 36, a member of the Australian bowls team. According to Israel Radio, he drowned in the river. His wife, who was on the bridge with

Australian delegation member Ari Kochmalik told Channel 1. Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said the collapse was "absolutely not [due to] sabotage. There was something wrong with this bridge."

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said the police had issued a permit for the bridge after receiving approval from the engineers who built it and it had passed a safety test. He said the police would investigate the approval of the bridge.

For previous events, the IDF built the footbridge. This year, however, organizers decided this would be too expensive and used a private construction company, Ingurit.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer last night appointed Deputy Minister Moshe Peled to head a committee to investigate the incident, a spokesman for Peled said. The committee is to include representatives of the police, the organizing committee, and Sports Authority director-general Yehoshua Dekel.

Immediately after "Hatikva" was sung, closing the ceremonies, President Ezer Weizman and Netanyahu left to visit the injured at Ichilov and Beilinson hospitals.

"We should all unite now in the hope that this disaster will not be repeated," Netanyahu said at an impromptu news conference outside the hospital.

Earlier, some 40 minutes after the collapse, Weizman had taken the stage and opened the ceremony.

"I am sorry that this is the way that I have to open the Maccabiah. It should have been happier. But I hope that the Maccabiah will bring us happier achievements," Weizman told the crowd, many of whom were unaware of the bridge collapse.

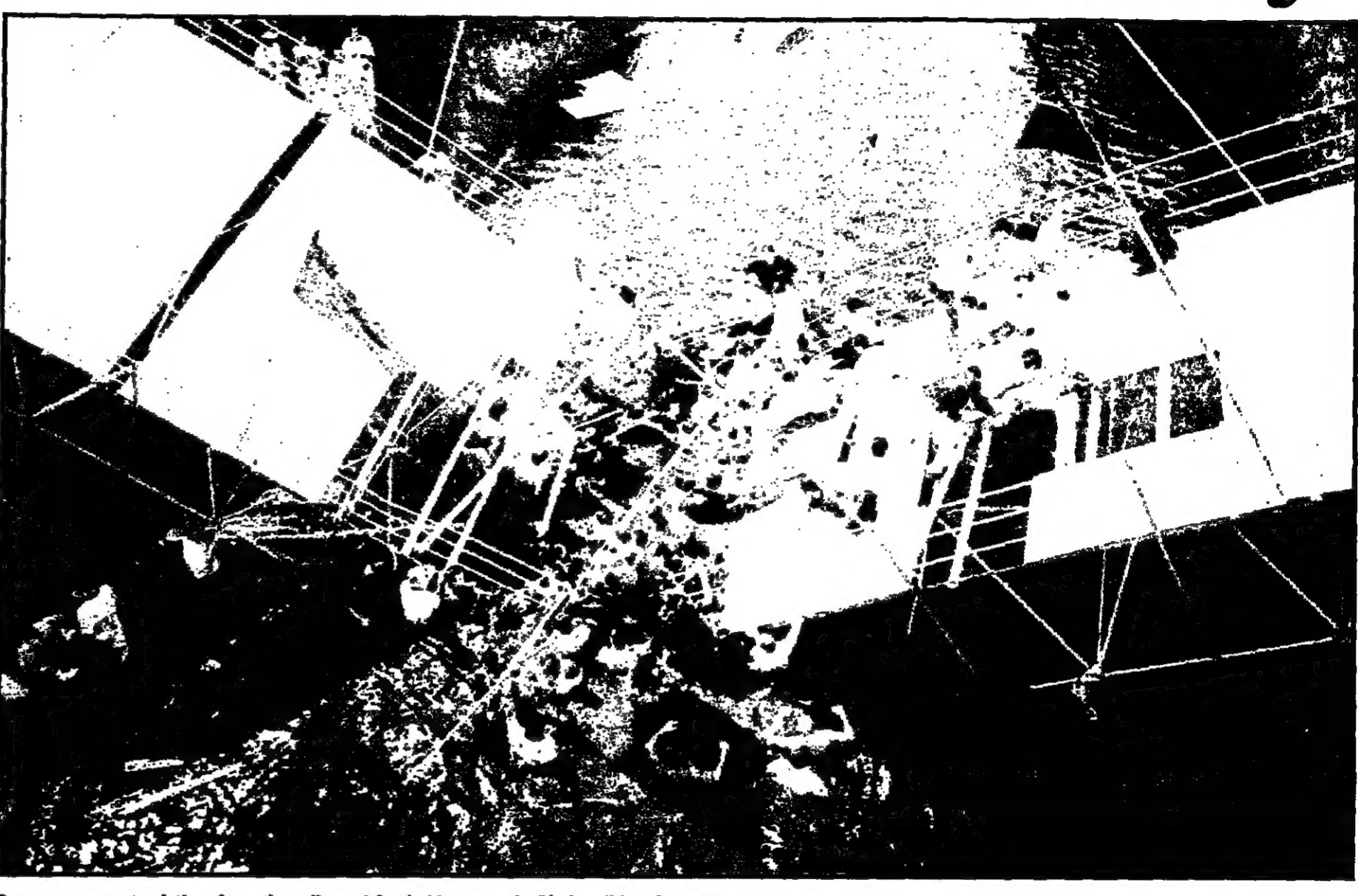
Weizman, who was shown by television waving to the crowd after reportedly visiting the scene of the accident, was initially reported to have been responsible for the controversial decision to go ahead with the ceremony. Beit Hanassi spokesman Batya Keinan, who received a flood of protests about the decision from journalists, later denied Weizman's responsibility.

"The decision to continue was taken by the organizing committee, the police, and the other organizers," she said. "Not by the president, but in his presence."

As rescue efforts continued, the crowd saw a program featuring a three-dimensional laser-created hologram of a Star of David, along with a memorial ceremony to the victims of the Holocaust and the fallen of Israel's wars and terrorist attacks. This was followed by a song-and-dance show.

Even those who participated in the show protested the decision. "It was a disgrace and shame that we carried out this performance with girls flipping around with their skirts flying and people singing after a tragedy such as this," Shalva Ben-Gal, one of the show's directors, said.

See **TRAGEDY**, Page 13



Rescuers evacuate victims from the collapsed footbridge over the Yarkon River last night.

Witnesses, team members, decry disorganization, praise rescuers

By **JOEL GORDIN**

The ill-fated bridge over the Yarkon River may have collapsed under the Australian Maccabiah contingent because of bad organization of the delegations' march-past and not just because of faulty construction, according to eyewitnesses.

The bridge had been built adjacent to an older, permanent bridge over the Yarkon, just outside the stadium. Contingents from the 53 countries were to assemble on the north Yarkon bank and walk across the bridge into the stadium for the march-past.

Evelyn Cohen, a member of the Australian team, said that team members had been told to cross the bridge no more than six abreast. The contingents were to cross in alphabetical order. The small Austrian team crossed in orderly fashion, just before 8 p.m.

But the 373-member Australian contingent, according to Cohen, "bunched up and rushed over the bridge. There were no monitors in control and there were many more than six abreast in most parts of the bridge."

Most eyewitnesses estimated there were about 100 people on the bridge when it collapsed.

Joshua Freidenberg, a member of the Australian tennis team, said: "I had been waiting on the bank to step on the bridge. There was a crack and the bridge snapped in half and collapsed at the middle."

"The bunched-up athletes slid down to the center into the filthy water, falling on top of each other. The lucky ones managed to keep their heads above water."

Mike Suzman only remembers that he "heard a bang" and saw people sliding into the water on the ruins of the bridge.

"It was horrific," he said, shuddering.

"The bridge was made of wood and the walk was covered with aluminum sheeting. After the bridge snapped at the center the aluminum sheets slid down onto the athletes who were struggling in the water, further adding to their distress. Many received broken limbs either as a result of the aluminum, or from falling on top of each other or when they hit the bottom of the shallow river."

"Luckily, most Australians learn how to swim well at an early age," said a member of the team.

Most of the 100 or so athletes were evacuated from the water in less than 20 minutes.

Freidenberg said the uninjured athletes formed human chains to help the injured up the steep, slippery banks. A number of the team members, including the bridge, golf, and bowls players,

are middle-aged, even elderly people. Some were carrying video cameras and other heavy equipment and none were dressed for the task of scrambling up the banks. Without exception, eyewitnesses praised the swift action of the rescuers, including the Magen David Adom personnel, policemen, border policemen, and bystanders. Many jumped fully clothed into the filthy water to help the injured.

Long afterwards, police divers scoured the murky river looking for people who may have been swept away and overlooked. All the divers found were dozens of Australian bush hats that the athletes had left behind.

Some of those looking for loved ones, however, had a more difficult time.

"It was the scariest hour and a half of my life before I located my brother," said Stephen

Freund, the brother of the vice-chairman of the Australian squad. "There was no help from the officials on the scene, and I had to leave and listen to my radio to find out information."

Boris Sorenstein, the son of Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Michael Nudelman, was a member of the delegation, having traveled to Australia last year to train the team in football and light athletics.

He could not contact his father directly, but after a couple of hours managed to get him a message that he was all right. Nudelman reportedly was furious at the decision to carry on with the opening ceremony.

But team members were not prepared to comment.

"What can I say?" said one squad member. "No word is big enough to say how tragic it was." Daniel Chalfen and Liat Collins contributed to this report.

PM warns of 'strong action' on Hebron

By **LIAT COLLINS**

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of being behind the violence in Hebron and warned Israel would take "strong action" if it continued. He did not elaborate, and ducked a question on whether such action would include reentering areas under Palestinian control.

"If the violence continues it will oblige us to take strong steps by a variety of means I don't want to elaborate on at the moment," he told reporters, after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"We cannot accept a situation in

which IDF soldiers are sitting ducks for all sorts of Palestinian rioters whose actions are not prevented by the Palestinian Authority. We have different means of acting in Hebron using different measures, both security means and others."

"I think the Palestinians have to understand that this so-called 'spontaneous violence' - which is violent enough but not at all spontaneous [and] is organized and abetted by the Palestinian Authority - is unacceptable to us," Netanyahu said.

"It is an unacceptable tactic that has to be done away with. And we've made it clear that just as we would not accept negotiations for peace under the threats and implementation of terror, we cannot view the continuation of peace talks with continued violence fomented by the Palestinian Authority," Netanyahu said.

See **HEBRON**, Page 2

PA police settlement attack foiled

Israeli security forces arrested three Palestinian policemen last night as they attempted to carry out a shooting attack on the Jewish settlement of Har Bracha on Mt. Gfzaim, overlooking Nablus, the IDF said.

One of the Palestinian policemen was wounded during the arrest when he tried to open fire at the security forces, the army said.

The Palestinians also were found to be carrying illegal weapons. The IDF is investigating whether the three were linked to previous shootings in the area.

Arieh O'Sullivan

UN Har Homa debate begins today

By **JAY BUSHINSKY**

Foreign Minister David Levy marshalled his diplomatic forces yesterday to head off a General Assembly resolution, sponsored by the Arab states and initiated by the PLO, that would penalize Israel for proceeding with the Har Homa housing project and other construction in eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The draft's most drastic proposals include suspension of Israel's UN membership and imposition of economic sanctions against Israeli products that originate in Jerusalem or Jewish settlements, ministry officials said.

They charged that the Arab states, including Egypt, "are cooperating in an effort to have Israel condemned by the international community" and to ostracize it from all of its institutions, including the World Court.

Because of this objective, these sources expect the US and Israeli delegations to refuse to discuss the

proposed text, "because this would turn it into a subject for negotiations."

Article 8 of the Arab-sponsored draft "stresses that normal participation of a UN member in the work of the General Assembly cannot occur when that member simultaneously and systematically violates international law as well as the precepts of the UN Charter and the relevant UN decisions."

Article 7 "asks UN members not to allow the import of goods made in settlements situated on conquered Palestinian land, including Jerusalem."

Israel's enlarged delegation, which was reinforced on the eve of the General Assembly debate with a large number of seasoned diplomats, has been engaged in an intensive lobbying effort designed to present the Israeli position to all the member states willing to listen.

Former ministry director-general Gideon Rafael ridiculed the anti-Israel assault under way, say-

ing "the General Assembly is the only battleground where the Arabs can win a skirmish, but not the war."

Rafael, who served as ambassador to the UN before, during, and after the Six Day War, contended that the Palestinians "cannot seek peace while trying to mobilize the whole world against Israel. They are shooting themselves in the foot."

Levy spokesman Freddy Eytan said it was "impossible that the Egyptians could lend a hand in promoting an extreme resolution at a time when they wish to serve as mediators in the dispute with the Palestinians."

He conceded that Israel is handicapped by the fact that a UN emissary who was to have come to Israel to investigate the Har Homa project and other construction projects was unable to do so.

Article 10 recommends that the member states which subscribed to the Fourth Geneva Convention convene a conference, the purpose

of which would be to impose its clauses on the "conquered Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to assure its implementation."

Israeli policy since the Six Day War has been to exempt the areas that came under Israel's military control from this post-World War II humanitarian pact, on the grounds that the territory in question was not seized from states that had sovereign rights over it.

Marilyn Henry adds from New York:

The Americans are expected to oppose the resolution in any form, sources said. Germany is expected to oppose it if it retains language about "participation."

"It is not acceptable to Germany to have language that would limit Israeli participation" in the General Assembly, a ranking diplomat at the German Mission said yesterday.

Born, he said, is prepared to break away from the European Union if the Europeans

NEWS

in brief

Palestinian killed in Bethlehem explosion

A Palestinian man was killed in Bethlehem in a bomb explosion yesterday, in a house that he had rented only on Sunday. The explosion occurred a few hundred meters from the city center, in the A-Saf neighborhood, which is known to be a stronghold of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Among the residents are a large group of the extremists expelled to Lebanon in 1992. Palestinian policemen had sealed off the area and were investigating. *Itim*

Netanyahu, Sharon to meet

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon are scheduled to meet around noon today. This meeting comes six days after Sharon walked out of a meeting with Netanyahu, saying, "I don't want to listen to you." The prime minister is expected to ask Sharon to be a partner in all the senior decision making forums and the consultations on state and security affairs. Netanyahu's offer is intended to appease Sharon after, at the last minute, he was not given the finance portfolio. Netanyahu yesterday confirmed that he had scheduled a meeting with Sharon, and that the two will discuss state and security affairs. *Michal Yudeberman*

Police to try for further remand of Ben-Ari

Police will ask for a further 10-day remand of alleged "Russian mafia" boss Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) at a hearing this morning in Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court. Ben-Ari, suspected of organizing massive fraud scams, the murder of a banker in Russia, bribing bank managers, and trying to pay off politicians, has been in custody since May 12, following his arrest at Ben-Gurion Airport as he was about to leave the country. At the last remand hearing, Judge Yeshayahu Schneller warned that if police requested a further remand without producing enough evidence for an indictment, he would probably release Lerner from custody. *Raine Marcus*

Suspected murderers' remands extended

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday extended the remands of the two sisters from Taiba suspected of murdering Berta Klein, a resident of the Ramat Efal nursing home where the sisters work. Dalal Ghenam, 22, who is suspected of committing the murder, was remanded for 10 days. Sana Ghenam, 21, who is suspected of assisting and covering up for her sister, was remanded for four days. Judge Mordechai Peled said that the evidence submitted so far strongly suggests that the sisters are responsible for Klein's death. *Itim*

Army on alert after two Lebanese civilians killed in IDF shelling

By DAVID RUDGE

IDF troops were on full alert along the northern border and in the security zone last night following another day of heavy fighting, in which two Lebanese civilians were killed and two South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded.

Hizbullah leaders had earlier warned of Katyusha rocket retaliation on the Galilee if Israel persisted in what it described as consistent breaches of the Operation Grapes of Wrath understandings.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine last night warned Hizbullah not to fire Katyusha rockets at the Galilee. He said that the IDF would respond severely.

The warnings by the organization's spiritual head Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah and other leading officials were made before the latest incident, in which a woman and her son were reported to have been killed and a girl wounded as a result of IDF and SLA fire.

Reports from Lebanon said the wounded girl and the bodies of those killed were brought to hospital in Sidon. They were apparently hit during heavy IDF and SLA shelling of Berti village, east of the Lebanese port city.

The shelling was in response to earlier Hizbullah attacks on the Jezzine region, in which the two SLA soldiers were wounded and

mortars fell on two villages in the Christian enclave.

The IDF spokesman said Hizbullah gunmen fired anti-tank missiles at SLA troops on operational duties in the Jezzine area; one soldier suffered moderate wounds and another was lightly wounded.

Simultaneously, Hizbullah opened fire with mortars at the area and hit the villages of Zaidoun and Hidab. There were no reports of any casualties among the local residents.

In response to the attack, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah firing positions in the Jezzine region and IDF and SLA gunners also returned fire.

Levine and the IDF's commander in Lebanon, Brig.-Gen. Ali Amruti, visited the Jezzine enclave last Thursday following earlier Hizbullah attacks on the region in which a number of SLA soldiers and civilians were killed and wounded.

The visit was apparently prompted by concern that the support of local residents and SLA troops in the area for the IDF was being undermined by the Hizbullah attacks and other measures being taken against the Christian population.

It was not clear last night how Hizbullah would react to the latest civilian fatalities and casualties north of the zone as a result of the IDF and SLA shelling.

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and Itim

"I am shocked, outraged and for the first time in Israel embarrassed at the extraordinary lack of sensitivity by those who decided to proceed with the artistic and dancing program [of the Maccabiah Games opening ceremony] at the same time they were looking for survivors, and a person had been killed," Isi Liebler, chairman of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the Australian Jewish community, said last night.

"I believe this is one of the most horrible examples of lack of sensitivity that I've ever experienced, and to hear the mayor of Ramat Gan describe this as Zionism suggests that the man is a primitive person, without any sensitivity," he said.

Liebler said he has three children living here and is very involved with Israel, "but I have never been so shocked, especially in a tragedy of this nature, at the lack of sensitivity in a country that understands sensitivity. I hope the people responsible will be brought to trial and appropriately dealt with."

The controversy over the decision raged on last night, with opinion divided over whether it was proper to have started the opening ceremony at all.

President Ezer Weizman, while visiting the injured at Ichilov Hospital, said when discussions were held to decide whether or not to proceed with the event, no one knew anyone had been killed, but only that there had been people injured.

"We knew there were people hurt, [and] there was a problem as to whether to go ahead and start or not. The committee met and decided to begin, because 50,000 people had already taken their seats. I asked that they change the program, and this was done," Weizman said.

The president said he understood those who criticized the decision.

Weizman's wife, Rouma, said they had felt the program should not go on, but all the spectators were sitting in the stadium and some of them did not know what happened. "We decided to officially open the games, and then leave," she said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that when he heard of the tragedy before the ceremony, he told the organizing committee that if it turned out that even one person died, the ceremony should not go on.

"The opening took place while it was still unclear what the status of the wounded was," he said. "After it was determined that someone had been killed, I left the ceremony and sent a request to the organizing committee to stop it, and this was done." He added that at this time, everyone should stand together in the hope that such a tragedy does not happen again.

Asked about the rest of the games, the prime minister said he was not completely familiar with the schedule, but that the immediate step of stopping the ceremony had been taken, which was the correct thing to do.

Deputy Education Minister

Cabinet confirms appointments

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The cabinet confirmed the nomination of Dore Gold as ambassador to the United Nations yesterday, along with 13 other diplomatic nominees whose appointments had been held up for the past month due to ministerial infighting.

Veteran diplomat Herzl Inbar, who the ministry had proposed as envoy to Moscow, withdrew his candidacy last night because of the controversy that surrounded it, *Itim* reported.

A telephone poll resulted in an overwhelming ministerial majority in favor of the Foreign Ministry's choices for overseas postings. Inbar's candidacy was omitted from the list following Yisrael Ba'aliya's objections.

HEBRON

Continued from Page 1

"They have to choose: either violence or progress towards peace," Netanyahu said.

He said Israel is avoiding collective punishment and said this means the PA is finding it hard to mobilize protesters.

According to an official briefing, he told the committee that the youths rioting in Hebron had been brought in from outside the city.

He also apparently complained of the double violation of the Hebron Agreement on the part of the PA, which allowed people to gather in the buffer zone around the Jewish quarter and not preventing the violence there.

Netanyahu told the committee that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is in touch with the PA's Nabil Shaath and that contacts have not been completely cut off. He



Paramedics rush a victim from the collapsed Maccabiah footbridge to a waiting ambulance last night in Ramat Gan. (Israel Sam)

Moshe Peled said he was astonished that the opening ceremony continued, which contradicted what he had been told would happen.

A spokesman for Peled said he had been told that the artistic portion of the opening ceremony would not take place, and when to his surprise it did, he left the stadium.

Peled also called for the games to continue.

MK Emanuel Zissman (The Third Way), chairman of the Knesset Committee for Education, Culture, and Sport, denounced "the decision to go on with the ceremony despite the shocking tragedy which occurred." He called for those who took the decision to go ahead to apologize to the families of the victims. He said the committee would be convened shortly to demand full explanations from the organizers of the Maccabiah.

David Re'em (Likud) filed an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda on the disaster and is demanding a commission of inquiry into the incident.

Micha Goldman (Labor), former deputy education minister in charge of sport, also demanded a state commission of inquiry. "It is impossible that the Maccabiah organizers were not aware of the fact that the bridge could not hold such a large number of people. The matter must be thoroughly investigated and conclusions reached and lessons learned to be applied to other mass sport events in Israel," Goldman said.

Organizing committee chairman Yoram Eyal said that when the deci-

sion was made to go ahead with the ceremony, no one knew the full extent of the tragedy, but that even if it had been known, the decision would have been the same, because it was an important national event.

He said it was a difficult decision, but that they had taken into consideration there were 50,000 people in the stadium, and they did not want to create panic.

Eyal told Channel 1 that Maccabiah officials would meet to discuss how to proceed with the games.

Game organizers consulted with Weizman, Maccabi organization leaders and Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar, and it was decided to go ahead with the artistic side of the program, marking 100 years of Zionism, and 50 years since the establishment of the state.

The organizers said there were

moments when they leaned toward cancelling the entire event, "but the people of Israel have suffered through many difficult and painful moments," and it was therefore decided to go ahead, but with changes in the program.

Bar said last night he backed the decision by the organizing committee to proceed with the opening ceremony. He told Channel 1 that the program was about 100 years of Zionism, to which people had come from around the world, and if the 50,000 spectators had been sent home, a riot would have broken out.

"We live between tears and happy events," he said, arguing the decision had not been wrong, and that he took responsibility for it.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said considering the type of panic that would have been created had

the tens of thousands of spectators been told to leave, "I believe the decision to continue the ceremony in a reduced fashion was correct."

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg left the stadium immediately after the ceremonies began and sent his condolences to the Maccabi family, a Jewish Agency spokesman said. Burg said he did not think the ceremony should have gone on after the tragedy, and explained that he felt he could not remain in the stadium "with the dead person and the injured still before us."

I can't say "whether the organizers' decision to continue with the opening ceremony, with changes, was justified or not, but it's clear it was jarring," Ashkenazi, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau said. *Batsheva Tiro and Lior Collins contributed to this report.*

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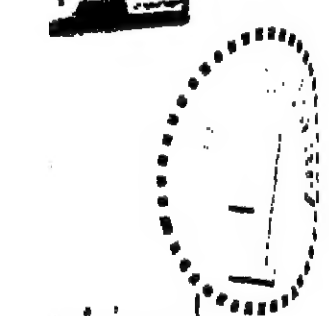
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Palestinian Police keep lid on Hebron riots

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A tense calm prevailed in Hebron yesterday as approximately 200 Palestinian policemen and other security officers fanned out along Shallah Street - the site of fierce clashes with IDF troops in previous days - and prevented Palestinians from rioting.

It was the first time such a large contingent of Palestinian security forces was present in the area to prevent rioting.

Throughout the day Israeli and Palestinian DCO officers visited the cashbah and Shallah Street sites to assess the situation.

On Sunday night, at the Palestinians' request, IDF officers met with their Palestinian counterparts and promised to maintain calm in the H1 areas and prevent rioters from throwing stones and firebombs into the H2 area under Israeli control.

According to the IDF Spokesman, the IDF officers then agreed to allow stores in H2 to reopen, after they'd been shut for four days.

Gadi, the IDF commander in Hebron, said the army would consider lifting additional restrictions gradually.

"Despite the rioting, the daily life of the Jewish community was not disrupted," he said, adding that what happened yesterday proved that the Palestinian Authority can control what happens in H1.

Palestinian security forces in different colored uniforms formed a long chain on both sides of Shallah Street and

Palestinian policemen perched on surrounding rooftops. Plainclothes security officers mingled in the crowd and Hebron Municipality inspectors, wearing orange armbands, moved Palestinian youth gathering in the streets.

Palestinian policemen charged a small group of boys stoning IDF soldiers at the nearby Yaakubia School and moved them away from the area.

In another incident, an Israeli Arab taxi driver was arrested by Palestinian policemen, who forced him into a jeep and drove away.

The driver had accompanied a Israeli reporter to Hebron.

Other reporters immediately notified IDF officers and half an hour later the taxi driver returned.

Hebron Palestinian Police commander Tarek Zaid said yesterday that maintaining the current situation required the full cooperation of both sides.

The decision to prevent rioting, he implied, stemmed from concern that IDF troops would seize some of the Palestinian-controlled areas from where stones and firebombs were being thrown.

"We must not give the Israeli side any excuse to retake Shallah Road or any other areas," said Zaid.

Commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces in Hebron, Akid Sharif Abu Ma'ali said that the Palestinian Police had received direct orders to stop the riots in Shallah Street and were therefore obeying them.

Olmert: Har Homa will go on

By HERB KEINON

When the UN takes up the issue of Har Homa today, it will be dealing with a hill on Jerusalem's southern exurbs that looks considerably different than it did when the Security Council first debated the issue in March.

In the intervening four months, the 1,850 dunam wooded hill has been cleared of about two-thirds of its pine trees, and a system of roads and retaining walls, built of Jerusalem stone, is beginning to emerge.

Tractors and bulldozers continued to wind up the hill yesterday, as infrastructure work on the new neighborhood continues unabated.

Unabated it will continue, promised Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, despite the UN, despite riots in Hebron, despite warnings that the West Bank is on the verge of an explosion.

"I do not agree with estimations of the sources of tension," Olmert told Israel Radio yesterday while on a tour of Haifa. "I think the tension is first and foremost a means of pressuring Israel into further concessions."

"If we make these concessions, this artificial tension will have achieved its aims, and I don't think this is what should be guiding Israel," he said. "It is inconceivable to me that Israel will make a concession in Jerusalem."



A bulldozer continues work on Har Homa yesterday.

(Bryan McBurney)

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

At the UN, Israel will hear a familiar refrain

The script is all too familiar. The UN, in an emergency special session of the General Assembly today, will likely censure Israel, in response to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's critical report on construction at Jerusalem's Har Homa and in the territories.

The Foreign Ministry will protest, saying the decision is one-sided and unfair. Many men and women in the street will respond by mumbling Ben-Gurion's famous words of disregard for the UN: "Oom [UN] shmoon." But much has changed in Israel's standing in the world since the days when the country reflexively disregarded anti-Israel resolutions at the UN as Israel-bashing by countries which didn't recognize it anyway.

For starters, we are no longer isolated. As

opposed to the days when Ben-Gurion uttered his remark, or when Abba Eban, Chaim Herzog, or Binyamin Netanyahu were fighting the country's rhetorical battles from the General Assembly's podium, today we have relations with most of the world. In other words, we have bilateral ties with many of those nations whose representatives will be raising their hands to vote against us in the General Assembly today.

And there, exactly, is the rub. It was easier to disregard a censure from, say, China, when China would totally ignore us and there were no ties between the two states. Then, after China cast a negative vote in the UN, we could say, "Who cares what China thinks anyway?"

But today, when there are bilateral ties

with China and so many other countries that used to snub us, their negative vote at the UN casts a certain shadow over bilateral relations.

Yehuda Blum, Israel's ambassador to the UN from 1978 to 1984, said "yes and no" when asked if a vote against Israel has any real significance. "As far as imposing sanctions, the General Assembly has no binding authority," he said. "But, at the same time, it can be used as an excuse by certain countries to refrain from certain types of ties with us, such as commercial ties."

Blum said these types of resolutions may up the price of maintaining bilateral relations with certain countries, especially those in the Third World. In addition, he said, these types of resolutions also create an

international climate of hostility to Israel, a climate that breeds other attempts at pressure, and which could have repercussions as far as investment or tourism are concerned.

Although the General Assembly has no power to enforce sanctions against Israel, it can recommend that other UN bodies have nothing to do with Israel, or that they kick Israel out of these organizations.

The meeting today is a continuation of an emergency special session on Har Homa in April. That session empowered the secretary-general to issue a report on building in Jerusalem and the settlements, a report the assembly will deal with today.

In that report Annan wrote that construction at Har Homa poses "a serious threat to the peace process."

MKs: Retrieving debts from PA areas nearly impossible

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Retrieving debts from residents of Palestinian areas, which became extremely difficult after the start of the intifada, has become a near impossibility now under the Palestinian Authority.

This was the consensus which emerged from a meeting of the Knesset's Law Committee yesterday, called to look into legislation to deal with the matter.

The committee heard the views of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein.

"The Palestinians either don't appear in Israeli courts, if they are summoned over debts, or else don't pay when they are sentenced," committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP) said in introducing the subject.

Rubinstein warned businessmen to think twice before making deals, since there could be no government guarantees.

He also called for normal legal relations with the PA, saying this is the "ABC of coexistence."

MK Moshe Shahal (Labor) said estimates put the total debts of

Palestinians to Israelis at NIS 60 million.

Hanegbi, who described the situation as unbearable, said the government had decided last year not to allow such debtors to enter Israel.

However, the decision has not been implemented.

The ministry and the police had drawn up a list of offenders, he said, and he would ask the premier to reactivate a ministerial committee on the subject.

Hanegbi said Rubinstein would also examine the possibility of returning the 17% VAT paid by traders who did not manage to collect their debts.

The possibility of subtracting debts from funds to the PA, if this were legal, would also be considered, he said.

An eastern Jerusalem lawyer attending the meeting dismissed the claims of those who say they cannot retrieve their debts from areas controlled by the PA, suggesting that Israelis would be better off retrieving debts with a Ramallah court order than they are when they try to do so from other Israelis.

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NEWS

in brief

Big city mayors: discrimination in funding

Mayors Ehud Olmert of Jerusalem, Ronni Milo of Tel Aviv, and Amram Mitzna of Haifa said in Haifa yesterday that they are planning to pull their cities out of the Union of Local Authorities, claiming that the Interior Ministry is discriminating against them in the dispersment of funds. The three promised, however, to meet with ULA chairman Adi Eldar before implementing the secession. Mitzna said the three also are to meet with Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy to demand that the Licensing Bureau not renew the licenses of people who don't pay parking tickets. *Itim*

MDA begins emergency drive for type-O blood

A severe shortage of type-O (universal donor) blood was reported yesterday by Magen David Adom. The seasonal shortage, due to people going on vacation, is causing difficulties in the supply of blood to hospitals and may cause some non-emergency operations to be cancelled. A special campaign to collect type-O blood will be held from today through Friday at MDA stations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, and the Central Blood Bank at Tel Hashomer. They will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. Information about donation hours at other stations can be obtained by calling 177-022-5911. Donors receive a year's blood insurance for themselves and their immediate family. *Judy Siegel*

Project 700 reducing deaths, accidents

The number of people killed in traffic accidents has decreased by 28 percent, on roads involved in the Transport and Internal Security ministries' Project 700, the Transport Ministry said yesterday. The figures refer to the first three months of the project, April through June, in which the police increased its presence and the enforcement of traffic regulations on 700 kilometers of roads deemed among the most dangerous in the country. The number of serious accidents went down by 20% on these roads during the same period, the ministry said. *Haim Shapiro*

Parents to have say in where school trips go

"Parents will also have a part in determining the sites their children visit and trip routes they take," Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said yesterday. Peled, speaking on a trip he took yesterday with the National Parents Association's trip committee and the Council for the Preservation of Settlement Sites and Buildings, said parents' groups will be consulted regarding planned school trips. Following the killing of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls in March by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim during a school trip, parents said they never knew their children were going to visit Naharayim and, had they known, they would not have allowed them to go there. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Beersheba student wins physics contest

Dimi Boyarsky, a 12th-grade student at the Amit Comprehensive High School in Beersheba, won first prize in the Polish Academy of Sciences' International Physics competition, entitled First Step to the Nobel Prize. Boyarsky was awarded a scholarship to study at Warsaw University in November for his research paper, "Chalcogenide Glassy Semiconductors." He competed against 12th-grade students from 57 countries, including the US, Japan, Russia, and Germany. *Itim*

TA flautist wins award for second time

Tel Aviv musician Amos Meller learned this week he had won first prize in a contest sponsored by the Utah-based International Volunteers' Association. Meller won first prize last year, too, for his voluntary activity as a flautist and conductor with organizations here and abroad, performing in schools and before children and adults suffering from a wide variety of illnesses and handicaps. *Itim*

Long school day to be realized in fall

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman and Education Ministry officials worked out additional details regarding plans for the long school day to be implemented this coming fall. Fifteen percent of the nation's

pupils will benefit from the plan, which is to provide them with an additional two hours of instruction a day, four days a week.

According to the Finance Ministry, Ne'eman and Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell agreed on a budget of NIS 400 million, including NIS 70m from

Education Ministry funds, for the program.

The latest plans for the long school day program call for it to be coordinated by the Education Ministry, but staffers, who will include teachers and students, will be employed by an external body. School principals will determine

how many students and how many teachers will be used in each school. According to information presented at the meeting, the instruction will either be one-on-one or in small groups, with a maximum of five pupils participating in each group. Emphasis will be placed on help with homework assignments and

basic understanding of material. There will be direct contact between those giving the after-school help and the pupils' teachers, who generally will recommend those pupils they believe need such assistance. However, the pupils themselves also will be able to request such help.

Principal: 'Khomeinist' remarks not properly understood

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A high school principal who warned his pupils against the "dark forces" who want to instill a "theocratic, Khomeinist" regime in Israel will remain in his post after reaching an agreement with the Education Ministry whereby he clarified that his remarks were "not properly understood."

Yekuniel Dagon, the principal of the Herzog Regional High School run by the Gezer local council, had a hearing with Education Ministry officials on Sunday. They said that Dagon understood that "he could have been more careful in his remarks."

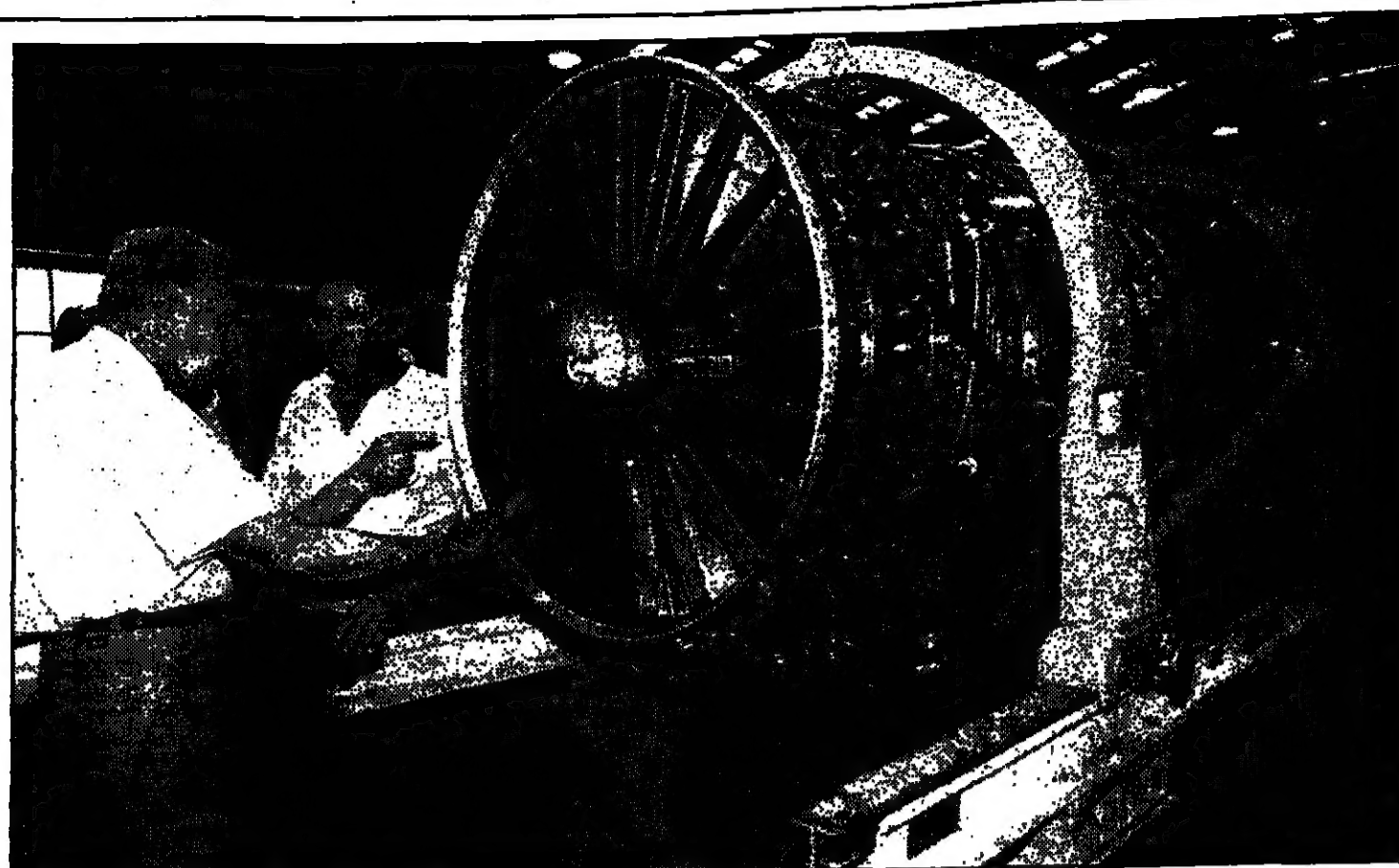
He also reportedly accepted a sentence in the declaration issued by the ministry that he "sees nothing wrong with individuals becoming newly penitent Jews in and of itself, if it is by free choice, including with parental approval."

Asked about the incident yesterday on Israel Radio, Dagon said "the whole storm [surrounding his remarks] focused on one sentence, which admittedly was strong."

The main thrust of his remarks had been aimed at convincing his pupils of the importance of serving in the IDF, he said, adding: "My pupils' blood is not any less dear, red, or pure than others."

While refusing to say just which political parties were involved in trying to establish a "Khomeinist regime," Dagon said "if I know as an Israeli citizen that judges in the State of Israel need to be guarded, and... if a prime minister is murdered in the State of Israel, and there are those who praise this, and this is just allowed to pass - I don't want to talk about politics, it's not my job. But I had to warn against these trends, and people can believe what they want. We all hear the voices and see what is happening."

"In any case, it was important for me to make clear - and there are observant teachers who work for me - that I have no problem with any person regarding their beliefs. Let them believe in what they want, but I want them to also respect my beliefs," he said.



Bet Shemesh Engines' president and CEO Avner Shacham shows President Ezer Weizman an F-16 engine at the factory, which Weizman toured yesterday.

Weizman: Why have foreign workers when there is unemployment?

By STEVE RODAN

President Ezer Weizman yesterday questioned the wisdom of maintaining foreign laborers in Israel at a time of growing unemployment.

"There are 100,000 unemployed," Weizman said. "We have to ask why are there 200,000 foreign workers?"

Weizman was speaking during a tour of Bet Shemesh Engines Ltd., until 1994 an ailing government defense company and today operating at a profit. The president spent more than three hours at the company, speaking to managers and employees.

"This is an example of how to

take a factory that failed and how with good management and lots of motivation, you can turn it around," Weizman said.

He suggested that Bet Shemesh Engines represents the future of the government-owned defense industries, which today are struggling to gain profitability.

Avner Shacham, Bet Shemesh Engines' president and chief executive officer, told Weizman that the company doesn't hire foreign workers. However, the town of Bet Shemesh itself has 600 foreign laborers, with about 400 on the unemployment roll.

The president said he could not understand the need for foreign laborers when the unem-

ployed can easily move into available jobs.

"Something doesn't seem to be right here," he said.

During Weizman's visit, Bet Shemesh Engines announced a \$12m. expansion program with investment to buy new manufacturing equipment.

Bet Shemesh Engines, founded in 1969, was literally given away by the government to Ornat Industries Group in 1992. At the time, the company was over-staffed, inefficient, and could not pay its 420 employees. Its production lines were often idle for lack of funding. Salaries were so low that some employees were eligible for state welfare.

The company has been profitable since the end of 1995 and executives said they expect to make a net profit of \$1.6 million this year. They said sales for 1997 will be at about \$30m.

The company overhauls, maintains, and manufactures parts for engines designed by Pratt and Whitney and General Electric Aircraft Engines. These include engines for the F-15, F-16, F-4 and Kfir. Bet Shemesh also repairs and overhauls helicopter engines for the Apache AH-64 and Blackhawk UH-60 engines, as well as the Allison 250 engine for the Bell 206 helicopter.

In addition, the company has launched several projects in the field of jet engine development.

Pupils to study improved ways of spending their free time

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Add another R to the traditional "Three R's" taught in Israeli schools: Recreation.

Under a new addition to the Education Ministry curriculum, reading, writing, and arithmetic are to be joined by recreation, as the ministry makes what pupils do in their free time part of what they study in school.

Yesterday the ministry announced plans to integrate into the curriculum a program, prepared by a panel of experts,

intended to get youngsters to make better use of their free time.

According to the ministry, the experts wrote that "education regarding use of free time will help the individual improve his ability to develop desirable patterns of behavior, which will improve his quality of life."

The panel of experts, headed by Prof. Hillel Ruskin of Hebrew University, included principals, and recreation, sports, and health experts.

The new program is to include kindergarten through 12-grade

pupils. Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell said recently the increase in the amount of free time that youngsters have, and the stimuli provided by advanced technology, especially in communications, has made it necessary for the educational system to try to pass on desired modes of behavior.

The decision is regarded as an outgrowth of a Central Bureau of Statistics poll on what Israelis prefer to do at home with their free time. That poll indicated that 94.9 percent said they watched television, while 92.6% said they listened to the radio.

Caspi, Artzi, Geffen, and Orlev to appear at Arad Festival

By AMY KLEIN

Under extremely tight security, the Arad Festival opens tonight with, among other events, Matti Caspi's first concert here since he left the country more than four years ago.

There will be 750 policemen and border policemen, 1,200 hired security personnel, and 450 ushers. The police held security drills at the beginning of the week, stressing elements of crowd control.

Two years ago, three teenagers were trampled to death when a crowd got out of control at a festival concert, a disaster that a government committee attributed to negligent management, overcrowding, and inadequate security.

The festival will run for three days and nights with some 60 different performers, including Rita, Riki Gal, Shlomo Artzi, and Aviv Geffen. Each night will be capped by a moonlight performance at Massada at 3 a.m.: tonight with David Broza, Wednesday night with Rami Kleinstein, and Thursday with Ehud Banai.

The festival administration anticipates 30,000-40,000 participants. Hotels in Arad are said to be nearly filled. Bezq will be bringing cellular phones to Arad to facilitate communication between parents and children.

In a new twist, National

Religious Party secretary-general Zevulun Orlev will be featured tomorrow night, singing the "Adon Olam" prayer to the popular tune by Uzi Hitman.

Orlev, who leads the High Holiday prayers in his Jerusalem synagogue, will be the only religious politician appearing in an event billed as "MKs and Politicians Sing With Sarah Sharon." Others expected to participate include MKs Shimon Peres, Ophir Pines, Rafi Elul, Benny Temkin, Naomi Blumenthal, Meir Shechter, and Eliezer Zandberg. All the politicians are to join in singing the song "Thank You," also by Hitman.

Orlev said he is participating, because "religious Zionism should be found everywhere that the Jewish people is found."

He had originally wanted to sing the prayer "Unetaneh Tokef" from the High Holiday liturgy, but Sharon convinced him that it would not be appropriate for the occasion.

Meanwhile, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, in a letter to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, protested Army Radio's decision to broadcast Aviv Geffen's performance.

"The esteemed Geffen did not don an army uniform and he has come out against military service," Peled wrote.

Itim contributed to this report.

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between those giving...
school help and the...
who generally will...
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Just dozens

Serbs rage against NATO as war criminal gets 20 years

By JOVANA GEC

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Serb outrage over NATO's moves against war crime suspects prompted international officials to increase security yesterday after a bomb targeted a housing compound, Serb leaflets threatened murder, and UN police were harassed.

The Serb rage increased after the UN war crimes tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands, sentenced Bosnian Serb Dusan Tadic to 20 years in prison yesterday for crimes against humanity.

"That man is not guilty, and not a single witness could confirm that he was responsible," said Goran Neskovic, deputy Bosnian Serb justice minister. "All this is one propaganda war against us."

"It's more a political than a legal judgment," said Momcilo Krajcanik, Serb representative on the three-man collective Bosnian presidency.

Tadic came from Prijedor, the northwestern Bosnia town that in 1992 was site of some of the worst detention camps for Muslims and Croats during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Prijedor's former police chief, Simo Drljaca, also was indicted by the Hague tribunal for helping run the camps. He was shot and killed while resisting arrest by NATO forces last Thursday, and was given a hero's funeral Sunday in the northern town of Banja Luka.

Hours after the funeral, an explosion blew out windows of a hotel housing three international organizations and a nearby school in Zvornik, a Serb-controlled town on the other side of Bosnia bordering Yugoslavia.

A jeep belonging to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was destroyed and at least one civilian vehicle was damaged, said Liam McDowall, a spokesman for the UN police force.

"We have to consider the reasonable possibility that this is in some way linked to the events in Prijedor," he said.

The Hotel Drina houses local offices of the OSCE, which is organizing Bosnia's local elections in September, as well as the UN police and UN refugee agency.

An OSCE spokesman, Johan



A Bulgarian policeman with the international police in Bosnia examines a damaged jeep from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the town of Zvornik yesterday. The jeep was damaged in an explosion after the funeral of war criminal Simo Drljaca, who was killed by NATO forces last week.

Verheyden, said at least two kilograms of explosives were planted under the engine of a jeep.

OSCE ordered personnel not to move around Serb territory without escort from the NATO-led peace force, Verheyden said.

On Sunday, pamphlets typed in broken English appeared in Serb-held Doboj in north-central Bosnia, promising "a head for a head" and warning that "Somalia was too gentle" for US troops.

Eighteen American soldiers were killed in Somalia in 1993 during an unsuccessful attempt to capture a faction leader, a debacle the US military is determined not to repeat.

The pamphlets were signed by a

previously unknown Serb group, McDowall said.

Since Thursday, UN police also have had their windshields smashed, bottles hurled at them, and threats of eviction from rental housing, he said.

The rhetoric at Sunday's funeral was sharply anti-NATO.

Milenko Karisik, the deputy Bosnian Serb interior minister, said the effort to apprehend war crimes suspects was a move to crush the Serb republic, which shares Bosnia with a Muslim-Croat federation.

"They killed a patriot, without an investigation and without a trial," Karisik said. "They killed him perfidiously, from the back, because

they didn't dare to look him in the eyes."

Maj. Chris Riley, a spokesman for the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia, said autopsy reports showed Drljaca was shot "from a distance" four times, three times in the side and once in the chest.

Serb rage over international moves against war crimes suspects prompted Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader twice indicted for genocide, to try and end a power struggle with Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic.

Two weeks ago, Plavsic accused Karadzic and his allies of amassing wealth by smuggling. Karadzic was ousted last summer

under international pressure but maintains much power. He has rallied army and police behind him. His media have accused Plavsic of betraying the Serb cause.

Karadzic's chief ally Krajcanik met Plavsic in her northwest base Banja Luka yesterday, but they failed to settle their differences. Krajcanik offered a compromise under which Plavsic would withdraw her decree dissolving parliament, while parliament would stop trying to replace her.

Plavsic rejected that. "If we don't make a radical cut, everything will turn to rot because of the crime, and everything we strive for will be destroyed," she said.

Column One

Candle in the sea

By Thomas O'Dwyer

"They want to make Cyprus a Greek island," Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash loves to tell journalists who visit his handsome imperial-era sandstone palace in the northern sector of Nicosia, the last completely divided capital on earth.

The very first line of Denkash's highly articulate (and highly spun) history of Cyprus begins: "There is not, and there has never been, a Cypriot nation."

These opinions are a weather-battered old stumbling block that Denkash once again carried all the way to last week's latest abortive talks on solving that willful international affairs perennial — "the Cyprus problem." It's very hard to explain to Denkash that Cyprus was a Greek island for centuries. Its proximity to south Turkey has been no excuse for the

dent had "inadvertently" used the word "Kurd" I must change it to "mountain Turk" which is what he meant to say. There were, of course, no such things as Kurds.

That has since changed in Ankara's lexicon — and therefore in Denkash's. What probably has not changed is the fact, known to all old Cyprus hands, that for all his fine democratic system in the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, it was the Turkish Embassy in Nicosia, not the presidential palace, that ran the statelet.

But this must be made clear — Rauf Denkash may be a man in a vise between Athens and Ankara — but his ethnic blindness is political, not personal. He is by no means a Radovan Karadzic; he is too powerful a character to be labeled a puppet. Denkash is a

"We are like little candles in a sea of Greeks. One storm and we are snuffed out."

—Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash

civilized and cultured man, but a genuine Turkish Cypriot patriot who believes in the separation — for their security — of his people.

"We are like little candles in a sea of Greeks," he once told me with the passion of a poet. "One storm and we are snuffed out."

Oddly, there was not even a hint of racism in that passion — nor did we detect here a man who hates Greeks. Indeed he counts Greek Cypriot leader and Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides as a personal friend who happens to be a political adversary. The two studied law together as students at the Inns of Court, London.

That is genuine — not posturing. Once when Clerides was leader of the opposition, he asked me to bring "Rauf" a message on one of my cross-border forays. "Tell him," boomed Clerides, "I saw him on television. He's gaining weight physically, but not to worry — he's losing it politically."

Denkash grinned across his desk and never even paused for breath.

"Tell Mr. Clerides I saw him also. He too is putting on weight physically but that's OK, because he never had any politically."

No matter what we foreign correspondents ever wrote about the internationally unrecognized Northern Cyprus and the Turkish invasion, — Denkash probably would get our massive vote as the most charming, hospitable, and kindly world leader we have ever dealt with.

He epitomized an opinion we often got in trouble for expressing in Cyprus — that Greek and Turkish Cypriots are more like one another than either of them are like the natives of their motherlands. That is the tragedy of Cyprus.

There is a softness and a love of life — wine, women, and song — in the Cypriot that is hard to find in Turkey and even harder to find in Athens.

Correspondents liked Denkash, but wrote his stand will not outlast him. We disliked the dour and humorless little President Spyros Kyprianou, but his Greek Cypriots were the traumatized victims, first of a coup by Athens generals, then of a brutal invasion the Turks proudly called "Operation Atilla." The Turks are still wrong. They have invaded, plundered and stolen a third of a country. If the Greeks will now accept a federal solution — it's a good deal. No one will ever recognize North Cyprus.

It's time for Ankara to shut up, pay up and sign up. The Greek Cypriots will forgive Rauf Denkash, if not Turkey. He's a Cypriot — even if he doesn't believe it.

Venice mayor fears secessionists

By CELESTINE BOHLEN

VENICE, Italy — Last September, Venice was made to play the unwilling host at the theatrical birth of Padania, the name of northern Italy's threatened breakaway state.

Then, in May, in a dramatic late-night stunt, a group of radical secessionists scaled the bell tower in St. Mark's Square and unfurled the banner of La Serenissima Repubblica — the Most Serene Republic — as this watery city and its far-flung empire were known until two centuries ago.

Venice is not a city that needs to attract attention, but flamboyant publicity like this would be a nightmare for any mayor, which is why it is probably a good thing that Venice's mayor, Massimo Cacciari, is, by profession, a philosopher.

Now 53, he will return to the study of theological philosophy when he steps down after the November mayoral elections. But as he gets ready to leave, Cacciari, who came to city hall three years ago advocating greater local powers for Italy's cities and regions, is increasingly worried that Rome is taking too long to face up to the secessionist fever that is running high through the Veneto region around Venice.

"We need some real tangible proposals, otherwise the delirium of secession will only grow," said Cacciari, sitting in an office with high windows on the Grand Canal. "A process has been set off in the northeast and especially in the Veneto with the set of social dynamics which, if not met by a strong political response, will only continue to grow. If a snowball doesn't stop, it will become an avalanche."

Federalism is on the agenda of an

Italian parliamentary commission charged with producing a package of sweeping constitutional reforms this summer. But Cacciari and others feel that the commission has so far dealt with the issue of decentralization in a superficial manner, oblivious of the urgency that the Northern League — the major secessionist party — and various splinter groups, like the one that briefly seized the St. Mark's bell tower, have injected into the debate.

The league, headed by Umberto Bossi, perhaps Italy's most volatile political figure, has shown no signs of gaining strength since 1996, when it won 10 percent of the national vote — and as much as 40% in some regions of the Veneto.

But Cacciari says that the league, fed by frustration with the government in Rome, is now after more than mere votes.

"The electoral question is not the one that is troubling but rather the fact that the league has taken on an increasingly hostile and overbearing attitude," Cacciari said. "They are becoming more intolerant, more bellicose."

Even if the constitutional commission comes up with a federalist solution, the proposals must be approved by parliament and a national referendum. In the meantime, Italy is heading for another key test, as it struggles to meet the criteria for the European monetary union.

If Italy is left out of the first launch of the common European currency in 1999, the exclusion will give the Northern League more ammunition to argue that Italy's fortunes are being dragged down by an economically backward south, and a politically irresponsible Rome.

(New York Times)

Jewish book center firebombed in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — An unidentified male caller claimed responsibility for yesterday's firebombing of a Jewish book center and warned of further attacks on Jewish targets.

Police said they had no further information on the pre-dawn attack on the home of Jewish businessman Brian Marron. His home includes the Jewish Book Center, a meeting place for people seeking to read about and discuss Judaism and related issues.

The attack followed an anti-Israel march Saturday in Cape Town by Muslim groups angry over the anti-Muslim leaflet in Hebron.

Police Superintendent Sherry Pistorius said investigators were studying the possibility the attack was politically or religiously motivated. "Later the same morning, a phone call was received from someone claiming responsibility for the attack and saying that they are going to attack other Jewish institutions," Pistorius said.

Defense lawyers urge clemency for ex-Nazis

ROME (Reuters) — A lawyer for ex-Nazi Erich Priebke yesterday told a court trying him for his role in Italy's worst wartime massacre that he was obeying orders, like the American who dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima, and should be freed.

"Priebke obeyed an executive order," defense lawyer Giosue Naso said, referring to the 1944 massacre in which the 83-year-old former SS captain is charged with complicity.

"What could the American officer who was ordered to drop the Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki have done? Has he been tried for what he did? Obviously, history is always written by the winners," Naso said.

A lawyer for Priebke's co-defendant, former SS major Karl Hass, 84, told the court he should be set free because he had not participated in the planning of the massacre.

Priebke and Hass have each admitted shooting two victims of the 335 men and boys rounded up by the Germans and shot at the Ardeatine Caves south of Rome as a reprisal for a bomb attack on Nazi troops. Seventy-five of the victims were Jews. Priebke also admitted ticking the names of victims off a list at the caves.

A lawyer for the city of Rome told the court earlier this month the Germans deserved five life sentences each.

GENERALI Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A.

NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY INFORMATION CENTER

Notice is hereby given that Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. has established an Information Center to provide information on policies issued by Generali Branches in Central and East European countries to, or in favor of persons who perished in the Holocaust, to the extent that such information is available to Generali in its archive in Trieste.

It should be noted that the information available to Generali relates to policies issued by Generali branches in the respective countries sixty, seventy years ago and more. Generali holds, in its Head Office in Trieste, the first pages only of those policies, which were sent to it by the branches upon the issue of the policies. Generali does not have any information as to the status of the insurance coverages under those policies during the period following the issue thereof since all policies and all records relating thereto were kept in the branches, of which Generali was ousted immediately after World War II.

The information in Generali's archive is unindexed and Generali is not in a position to determine that the first pages which it does have in Trieste exhaustively reflect all policies issued by its branches in Central and East European countries before World War II.

To facilitate a search for names and information available in Trieste, Generali is in the process of computerizing the data available to it in Trieste.

Information request forms will be ready for distribution as of July 15, 1997. Requests for such forms should be addressed to the Generali Policy Information Center, at one of the following addresses:

Generali Policy Information Center
Segreteria Centrale
Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi 2
Trieste 34132, Italy
Fax No. 0039-40-671006

Generali Policy Information Center
P.O. Box 20310
Tel-Aviv 61202, Israel

Additional addresses for the United States and Europe will be published in a few days.

The computerization of data in Generali's archive in Trieste may take several months, and Generali will respond to inquiries as soon as possible.

Please note that since the expropriation of its properties and branches in East and Central Europe after World War II, Generali is not obligated under the policies issued in those countries. The policies and the assets related to them were all subject to the local laws. The policies and the reserves underlying them became the responsibility of the states or state-owned entities that took them over.

Generali is setting up a fund in the amount of US\$ 12,000,000, to be applied over a period of twelve years, inter alia, for ex gratia payments to beneficiaries under such policies, and their legal successors, in accordance with priorities and criteria to be determined by a Committee — headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel — to be appointed by the Chairman of the Finance by the Knesset and Migdal Insurance Company Ltd. The procedures for applications to the Committee will be published by the Committee, once it begins functioning.

The setting up of the information Center and the establishment of the Fund should not be taken as a recognition by Generali of an obligation to pay any amounts under policies issued by its Branches in Central and Eastern Europe before World War II.

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An insensitive ceremony

Last night's tragic beginning to the 15th Maccabiah was made worse by the stone-hearted insensitivity of the games' organizers. Even after the full scope of the disaster was known, Yoram Eyal, the chairman of the Maccabiah's organizing committee, still had the effrontery to insist that the decision to go ahead with a shortened version of the opening ceremony, colorful dancers and all, was the correct one. Shock affects different people in different ways, but it cannot explain away the organizers' staggering lapse of both judgment and good taste in deciding that "the show must go on," blithely ignoring the fact that a bridge carrying Australian athletes had collapsed into the Yarkon River, leaving one dead and dozens injured, some seriously.

Eyal last night claimed that when the decision to go ahead was made, the committee did not know the extent of the disaster. That being the case, they should have postponed making a decision a few more minutes until they had

more information. Prudence is preferable to punctuality in such cases, and the crowd in the Ramat Gan stadium would not have suffered from a half-hour delay until the news could be broken to them.

Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar, who backed the organizers' decision to proceed with the celebrations, argued last night that since Israel is now celebrating 100 years of Zionism and its 50th year of independence, there was no choice but to continue and mix, in his words, joy with sorrow. Israel and the Ramat Gan Municipality will have plenty of opportunities to celebrate 100 years of Zionism and 50 years of independence; last night was not one of them.

The aim of the Maccabiah is to unite Jewish athletes from around the world in Israel, in a joint celebration of their Jewishness and sportsmanship. Bringing on the dancing girls while seriously injured athletes are being pulled out of a river behind the stadium walls is a sad negation of this lofty aim.

UNfriendly gathering

Tomorrow United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan will unveil a package of reforms of the UN system, capping its budget at \$1.3 billion and cutting about 1,000 jobs. The United States Congress, which appropriates about one quarter of the UN budget, will be watching the reform effort closely, as it should. Congress also would do well to watch today's emergency special session on Jerusalem's Har Homa as well, because political and financial irresponsibility go hand in hand.

When the General Assembly in 1991 finally reversed its infamous "Zionism is Racism" resolution of 1975, many thought the era of outrageous anti-Israel resolutions in that body had come to an end. At the time it seemed as if the long hegemony of the Arab world, the Soviet bloc, and the "non-aligned movement" on Middle East issues had finally collapsed. But if the assembly passes a resolution on Har Homa today with even a veiled recommendation of sanctions against Israel, it will be a sign that not so much has changed at Turtle Bay.

It is a shame that the assembly, even in today's more enlightened era, has given up even the pretense of fairness or objectivity in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The names of the structures created to deal with the conflict say it all: the UN Secretariat has a Division for Palestinian Rights, created at the behest of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. In a sense, it is lucky for Israel that the UN has drained itself of any credibility it might have on the issue by being so lopsidedly anti-Israel.

The danger is, however, that the UN obsession with attacking Israel also undermines a serious focus on the real threats to peace and stability in the region. For example, even an issue of undeniable importance that deserves to be on the UN agenda, such as the risk of nuclear proliferation in the middle east, becomes distorted when passed through the UN's unique lens. Rather than expressing concern over Iran's burgeoning nuclear program, or its attempts to acquire missiles that can reach Israel, or the threat of Iraq's rebuilding its program despite UN sanctions, the assembly singled out one nation for attack—Israel, for not signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It is tempting at this point to simply write off the United Nations as a force for good in the world, at least when it comes to achieving the lofty goals enshrined in its founding charter. It was, perhaps, unrealistic to expect the UN to be greater than the sum of its parts, the nations of the world.

The UN is not without its successes, even in the peace-making arena. The sad thing about the

UN today, however, is that in many areas it not only fails to lead, but lags behind the wave of liberal democracy that has swept the globe.

The UN's stance on the Middle East is still trapped in a cocoon of anti-colonialist ideology developed at the height of the Cold War. The Soviet Union is now gone, Nelson Mandela is president of South Africa, England has even handed Hong Kong back to China—yet the UN is acting as if the Arab-Israeli conflict is essentially an anti-colonial struggle.

This shoe simply does not fit. Through the Oslo process, Israel and the Palestinians have agreed to "recognizing their mutual legitimate and political rights." The conflict, therefore, is seen even by the parties themselves as a mutual struggle for self-determination, not independence from some colonial power.

Though Israel is way ahead of the Palestinians in terms of its physical existence as an independent state, Israel is still striving for full recognition and acceptance as a legitimate, not just de facto, state in its own region. Israel's recognition of Palestinian nationhood has been the stated price of such acceptance. The main obstacle in the way of Israel's going ahead with the grand bargain is the fear that it will not result in the Arab world's full acceptance of the Jewish state.

The attempt by the Palestinians and the Arab states to use the UN as a cudgel against Israel is contrary to the spirit of Oslo, which embodies the spirit of mutual recognition and of direct negotiations to achieve peace and security for both parties. It is for this reason that the United States has wisely fought such resolutions in the both the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Since the US stance is well-known, the greatest onus for taking the moral wind out of the Palestinian-Egyptian effort at the UN belongs on the shoulders of the Europeans, who wish to raise their profile as brokers in the peace process. If they support the draft resolution with minor changes, the Europeans will have failed the test. A vote against would show that the Europeans are serious about changing their approach, and that there is some hope that they could play more of an honest broker role in the peace process.

Even if today's resolution were crafted in a balanced and constructive spirit—which is far from the case—it should be opposed by any nation that really supports the peace process. International resolutions, like violence, were supposed to be a thing of the past once Israel and Palestinians committed to negotiating peace with each other directly. The Palestinian resort to such measures is a step backwards and distraction from direct negotiations.

DON'T DISTURB ME, PLEASE.



Terms that tranquilize

China's new prefect for Hong Kong Tung Chi Wa easily fielded the inevitable question: Would the new management treat demonstrators civilly as under British rule, or would they be disposed of in Tienanmen-Square fashion?

Tung good-naturedly invoked Western standards. Those planning to stage a demonstration were merely expected to apply, as in Western countries, to the local police station and secure a permit for the demonstration. It will be interesting to see how many residents of Hong Kong prove willing to step into the police parlor and announce their advance intention to demonstrate against the rulers in Beijing.

Tung adroitly exploited the West's penchant for self-deception when it wrestles with misgivings or a bad conscience. The best way to lobotomize such feelings is to fall back on terms which have a tranquilizing effect on Western listeners, but imply something totally in a dictatorial context.

This technique was employed to the hilt by Joseph Stalin, who gave his assurances concerning "free elections" in Eastern Europe. The elections were duly held in accordance with Stalinist definitions of freedom.

Israel's relations with the Palestinian Authority are replete with examples of this piffall. Once it was decided to elevate Yasser Arafat from terror chieftain to respected interlocutor we too began playing at double entendres to establish a sham normalcy. It just would not do, for example, to call Jibril Rajoub head of Arafat's secret police, although Rajoub's men act like a secret police.

When one Israeli security source referred to Rajoub as a "tough with a cravat," he was immediately pulled on the carpet for lese majeste. Rajoub's finest were repackaged as the Preventive Security Service, or even advertised as the Palestinian equivalent of Israel's General Security Service.

Since we all believe in an ounce of prevention and (Avishai Raviv's

AMIEL UNGAR

apart) generally respect our GSS, this placed Rajoub's minions in a favorable light. If Rajoub is Ami Ayalon, who are the Israeli opposite numbers of Amin el-Hindi and the heads of the other security services, whose overlap and duplication are part and parcel of a dictatorship's checks and balances? Freih Abu Medein is dutifully referred to as the justice minister of the Palestine Authority. If a jus-

In feeding our penchant for self-deception the Palestinians are using an old and well-tried method

justice minister exists, we are undoubtedly dealing with a law-abiding entity. Medein's concept of justice calls upon Palestinian land dealers to commit suicide in order to spare the Palestinians the bother of murdering them.

Another nicety of Palestinian law has been the modest request for the authority addressed to Israel calling for the legalization of 15,000 stolen vehicles.

Why confine a stolen vehicle to the autonomy alone? Don't the intrepid thieves and their respected clientele deserve to drive their cars everywhere, perhaps even paying a nostalgic courtesy call on the vehicles' former owners?

Such interesting concepts of legality in no way deter Israeli lawyers from making pilgrimages to the authority to consult with fellow "jurists."

A QUESTION that preoccupies the media is how long it will take to restore "security coordination" with the Palestinians.

During the heyday of security coordination, Palestinian officials exploited their VIP status to smuggle wanted felons and explo-

sive charges from area to area. Israel "coordinated" with organizations whose performance level was strangely erratic.

While adept at snatching people from sovereign Israeli territory to torture cells in the authority, they proved curiously inept at keeping murderers of Israelis behind bars.

A successful rehabilitation program has even turned some murderers into members of the Palestinian police.

The message dispatched by these inexplicable escapes is that the murderers of Jews are accorded more leniency than land dealers. Those murderers presumably imprisoned by the authority are actually in protective custody to preempt Israeli justice.

When the Social Democratic government in Germany decided in 1969 to normalize relations with East Germany, the political vocabulary changed overnight. Gone were references to totalitarianism which could offend the new partners. The Bonn government ceased chronicling the rampant brutality and suppression in East Germany; unfortunate aspects such as the Stasi and the Berlin Wall were minimized, or totally sanitized.

Under the new approach, the East German regime was judged by its own yardsticks. Scholars accepted at face value and lauded the regime's claims of economic achievements. Such confidence-building measures of course went unreciprocated by East Germany, which continued to broadcast hatred toward the Federal Republic.

Substitute Shimon Peres and the Labor Party for Willy Brandt and the SPD, and the story repeats itself up to a point.

When the wall crumbled and the truth about East German totalitarianism reassessed itself, some scholars and politicians were embarrassed. As the facade of Oslo crumbles, far more serious consequences are in store.

The writer is chairman of the political science department at Judea and Samaria College.

Ghetto on wheels

YOSEF GOELL

arrangement had been recommended by a committee headed by the ministry's director-general and representatives of the Egged and Dan bus cooperatives.

Now haredim men are fully entitled to view women both as inferior and

Haredim who won't ride the bus next to women should drive cars, ride bicycles, or walk

as deadly sexual threats, and to shun them. But any attempt to turn such bigoted thoughts and attitudes into publicly sanctioned behavior should be fought tooth and nail.

While I cannot see myself ever becoming haredi, I have no problem admitting that some aspects of the haredi way of life are admirable—the intricate network of intra-communal help, institutions like Yad Sarah, the fantastically well-developed volunteering system, and the emphasis on study, which has made its mark on secular life.

But the haredi attitude to women is despicable. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's inanities about the dire fate awaiting a man who walks between two women is only the tip of the iceberg.

The real problems lie in the nasty treatment women get in rabbinical courts, in the fact that women are

precluded from serving on such courts, where bigoted men determine women's fates, and the repeated opposition of haredi leaders to women in positions of power.

If haredim continued living in their self-imposed ghettos it would be bad enough. But the increasing penetration of many of them into the modern world is being accompanied by an attempt to foist their own narrow life style onto that world.

The fact that haredim now ride the buses along with everyone else is just one indication of their emergence from the ghetto into modern life. But modern Israel—which includes government ministries, Egged and Dan—should give no quarter to haredi attempts to impose the more benighted aspects of their ghetto life on the rest of society.

Any haredim who won't ride the bus next to women—who comprise more than half the human race—should drive their own cars, ride bicycles, or walk.

This is not a narrow feminist cause. I suspect that many haredi women, in the forefront of the haredi penetration into modern Israel—having been sent there by their husbands to earn a living—are themselves coming around to feeling resentful over being treated like second-class human beings.

The spirited revolt by some of them against rabbinical edicts forbidding the wearing of alluring wigs, as reported on Israel TV last Friday night, seems one such indication.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Jobs or trees?

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

So I was visiting a businessman in downtown Jakarta the other day and I asked him for directions to my next appointment. His instructions were: "Go to the building with the Armani Emporium upstairs—you know, just above the Hard Rock Cafe—then turn right at McDonald's."

I just looked at him and laughed. "Where am I?" Where I was was one of the world's hottest emerging markets.

You've heard about emerging markets. American pension funds probably own shares in the \$125 Jakarta Stock Exchange. And thanks to those pension funds—and global companies like Nike, Freeport and thousands of Japanese and Korean firms that have moved their smokestack manufacturing here to tap the cheap labor and lax regulatory standards—Indonesia is a boom country.

There's just one little downside: The environment all over this remarkably beautiful archipelago is being devastated.

Your poison: According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, 44 percent of the original natural habitats of Indonesia have been converted to other uses, and even larger portions of its lowland tropical rain forests have been lost. Several key coral reefs have been decimated by dynamite and cyanide fishing.

Precisely because it is home to so many species, Indonesia today has more animals threatened with extinction (600) than any country in the world. All the rivers in Jakarta are dead, choked by acids, alcohol and oils, and a thick smog cloud envelops the city.

Environmental degradation, due to mining in outer Java islands and quarrying for building materials in Java, is constantly increasing, exposing Indonesians to erosion, a recent forest fire the size of Belgium, and landslides.

The rich, developed, northern nations, who've been polluting for years, have no right to lecture Indonesians, now that they're trying to develop too. Still, it is hard not to feel a sense of tragedy in the making, and Indonesians who have reached an income and education level where they can afford to think

The dark side of globalization

about the environment share this sense of being overwhelmed by global capitalism.

For a developing country like Indonesia, plugging into the global market often means a brutal ultimatum: Jobs or trees? You can't have both. This is globalization's dark side.

SOME artists on Indonesia's tropical island of Bali just held an exhibition protesting the paving of their paradise. The *Jakarta Post* said their drawings included a cartoon of a golf ball dribbling into a Hindu procession, another of Bali as a golf ball being batted around by the world, and one of a village farmer swinging his hoe like a golfer teeing off, only he is swinging away at developers. The show was wryly titled: "glo-BALL-ization."

I asked Agus Purnomo, who heads the World Wide Fund for Nature in Indonesia, what it's like to be an environmentalist in an emerging market: "We are in a constant race with development," he sighed.

"Before we even have a chance to convince the wider audience here that environmentally sound development is a viable way to do things, the plans to build roads, factories or power plants are moving ahead."

"We have a problem here with unemployment, so any developer who can sell promises of employment will get support. When that happens, we get labeled as against employment, and get treated as outsiders." There are environmental laws, but they are rarely enforced, and polluters can easily bribe inspectors.

Nabiel Makarim heads Indonesia's infant environmental protection agency. He knows that real enforcement is impossible, so he has opted instead for embarrassment—creating public awards for cities and companies that achieve standards of environmental protection and spotlighting those that don't.

Makarim is a realist: "The power base for environmentalism is still very weak," he says.

Indonesia is now in a race. The same growth that is polluting its environment is also producing a middle class with an environmental awareness, as happened in the West. Will that middle class reach critical mass before the environmental degradation does?

"You lose a mountain, you lose it—you can't regrow it," said Purnomo. "If you cut the forests, you can grow them back, but you lose the biodiversity—the plants, the animals. I'm worried that in a decade, we'll all be environmentally aware, but there'll be nothing left to defend."

(New York Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AT LAST!

Sir, — Kol Hakavod to Limor Livnat, the Israeli Annie Oakley who beat the bubble gum out of Bezeq's big boys for the benefit of us all.

Limor's victory gives hope that Israel will finally evolve from small-time Stalinist sheet slipper-

ocracy into the Jewish equivalent of an Anglo-Saxon capitalist Protestant democracy. Then this will no longer be a society where those with "get-up-and-go" got up and went, like the expatriate Israeli businessmen I met in New York who told me that they

came to America because they could not build their dreams here.

So please excuse me! I must make some urgent business calls abroad that I can now afford.

ARYEH GALLIN

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 Years Ago, July 15, 1937

In an article on Palestine published in London's *Daily Herald* David Ben-Gurion comments on Lord Peel's Royal Commission's findings that "the aspirations of Arabs and Jews in Palestine cannot be satisfied under the terms of the present Mandate" and the planned scheme of partition. He argues that Palestine is the only country which Jews can rightly call their own. The Jewish people have always regarded and will continue to regard Palestine as a whole, as a single country which is theirs in a national sense and will become theirs once again. No Jew will accept partition as a

just and rightful solution.

50 Years Ago, July 15, 1947

"Operation Tiger," the search of the Netanya area for the two sergeants held by the Irgun Zvai Leumi as hostages, continues. Martial law cuts off Netanya from the rest of the country.

25 Years Ago, July 15, 1972

"Time is working for us," declares Foreign Minister Abba Eban addressing the ZOA convention in Tel Aviv. He emphasizes that the future map of Israel will only be made at the peace conference table.

The US spacecraft *Mariner* fin-

ishes mapping the entire surface of Mars.

15 Years Ago, July 15, 1982

Iran invades Iraq as a "first stage in liberation of Jerusalem." Iranian forces are reported to have penetrated Iraqi territory in the sector of Basra.

10 Years Ago, July 15, 1987

British prime minister Margaret Thatcher flies to Washington to make "one final push" to persuade the Reagan administration to come out publicly in support of an international Middle East conference.

Alexander Zvielli

BOOK REVIEW



Enfant terrible Norman Mailer

A Greek tragedy in tabloid form

By NEIL BALDWIN

THE LAST PARTY: Scenes From My Life With Norman Mailer by Adele Mailer. Barricade Books. 400 pp. \$25.

To corrupt Shakespeare's line (and I don't think Adele Mailer would mind), this is the stuff that tabloids are made of.

And yet, in the aftermath of a bacchanalian, overcrowded party that lays waste to their apartment, by the time the besotted and disheveled Norman Mailer stabs his furious, fed-up and terrified young wife and the mother of their two girls, it still comes as a horrifying, blood-drenched shock.

The decade-long relationship reads like a classic, inexorable Greek tragedy, which we know from the start is going to end badly, but are powerless to do anything except keep turning the pages of this manic, sordid and decently written saga.

Adele Morales, attractive and ambitious daughter of a working-class Brooklyn family, seeks her intellectual, artistic and sexual fortune in the Greenwich Village of the 1950s. She takes classes at the New School. She stays up late at night painting. She frequents candlelit dives. She experiments with the orgone box. She affects Beatnik garb.

She takes several lovers, including a refreshingly endearing Jack Kerouac, who likes to

dance and thinks of himself as a great writer "because Allen Ginsberg said so." And then she meets the 28-year-old, Harvard-educated, soft-eyed, curly-haired, F. Scott Fitzgerald-quoting *enfant terrible* who seduces her with deep love, and they embark on a surreal, heaven-and-hell trip.

Adele discovers before too long the many faces of Norman. When he drinks, or ingests any one of a vast menu of illegal substances, he becomes pugnacious, rude and abusive.

When writing, he is unapproachable, given to scribbling in his black pocket notebook, and stomping back and forth in the living room while crunching Scotch-impregnated ice cubes between his

teeth and mumbling in an "affected, Texas bad-man accent" about the next precious line of his work in progress.

He is addicted to parties, adoring crowds and women of all shapes and sizes. He fantasizes about orgies and fistfights, and instigates them at random.

But Norman is blessed with allure. He is a caring, sensual lover. He gets along famously with Adele's blue-collar father and overbearing mother. In the early years of their living together, Norman shares his world with Adele, drawing her into a fantasy realm she had always desired, of jazz, museums, exotic vacation spots and book launches. She meets and skillfully sketches the literary and artistic players of the

day — Mark Rothko, Marlon Brando, Malcolm Cowley, Lillian Hellman.

Adele Mailer is not a polished wordsmith. She lacks the self-conscious, encyclopaedic, exhibitionistic style of her notorious ex-husband, and is quite honest about it. She also has a tendency to wallow in self-pity. This is annoying at first, but by the end of the book we can't help forgiving her. She has, indeed, suffered. I asked myself numerous times over the course of her testimony, as she endured yet another sleepless night alone while her compulsive husband roamed the city streets satiating himself in as many ways as possible: Why doesn't she just take the kids and get out?

(The Baltimore Sun)

Not Page One

Sez You! Readers, writers

By Sam Orbaum

Is this a schizophrenic country or what? So much to love, so much to hate. Depending on your mood, the shuk can be dirty, rude and wretched, or quaint, earthy and great fun. The Western Wall impressive or oppressive. The Negev, boring or beautiful. Readers responded to a Sez You! quest for the best and worst spots in Israel. Here's what they had to say...

- Heaven and Hell**
- I love Rosh Pina, Zichron Ya'acov and Metulla: they're small, rustic, tranquil, far from the city hubbub... and they convey nostalgia. — Raya Gensler, Herzliya
- The Wingate Institute. It's a wonderful place, well-kept and peaceful, even though it's used by many people. — Rosa Shaw, Herzliya
- My least favorite place is Allenby Street in Tel Aviv. It has become rundown, dirty, with broken pavements, beggars lying on the ground, on benches, at bus stops. At night it is a badly lit and forbidding road with prostitutes at every corner.
- The Hamashbir store has lost its clientele and at night the back entrance is open to prostitutes and their clients who, under the watchful eye of the store's guard, take a quickie on the back staircase, and drop the guard a 50-shekel note. — S. Angel, Tel Aviv
- The place I have in mind [for better or worse] is probably the most crowded, noisiest, messiest place in Israel — but it's home. — L.H. Jerusalem
- The place I like most is the Lily Garden, a park between Pinsker and Dubnow Streets in Talbieh, Jerusalem. It's beautifully kept, aromatic and generously lit at night. I could go on and on describing the lovely scenes in this park, where my daily attendance stretches from the early Sixties — when I brought my small children — to now, when I bring my grandchildren.
- The most awful place is again in Jerusalem: the #15 bus stop on Jaffa Road. The street is ugly and noisy, there's a shmatka shop behind the stop, from which blares awful, loud and vulgar music. — Varda Brown, Jerusalem
- I like the Delek station on the corner of Emek Refaim and Pierre Koenig Streets in Jerusalem. Why? The bakery on the premises. The mix of gas and fresh baked goods can't be smelled anywhere else. — Viva, Jerusalem
- Rowing on the Yarkon. What makes it so great? Rowing. Even makes up for the pollution.
- Runnerup: Mizpe Ramon. My dream hike: camping on a cliff overlooking the crater. Lots of wide-open space and beautiful sunrises.
- Least favorite place: Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem. Too many tourists, too many people I know. — Maccabiah Games rower Tamara Kronis, Jerusalem
- One of my favorite places would have to be the restaurant overlooking the Kinneret at Beit Gavriel. The view is spectacular — especially at sunset. Actually, the whole of Beit Gavriel is just gorgeous.
- My least favorite: any concert hall/theater/cinema filled with native-born Israelis. Shows never start on time, late-comers walk in nonchalantly and talk as if the show hasn't started yet. And the mobile phones never seemed to be turned off. — Ruth Fisher
- The place I love the very most is Beit Hakerem where I live: It's full of gardens, flowers and trees.
- And tolerant people all at ease — it's simply not coercive.
- I avoid Malha's shopping mall — Too strident, new and noisy; I don't like being pushed and shoved.
- Because of my avoiduposity, I savor Jerusalem's older feel. Even though some shops are down-at-heel.
- They remind me of those days of olden.
- When Jerusalem still was really golden.
- Dvora Waysman, Jerusalem
- Dear Prime Minister...**
- I think you should...
1. Keep the promises you made
 2. Remember the people who voted for you
 3. Get a new secretary of state (sic)
 4. Not try to please everyone (sic! sic!)
 5. Be more humble
 6. Stop telling us how great you are
 7. Tell your wife to listen to her father
 8. Tell your wife to wear longer skirts
 9. Tell your wife to keep her mouth shut.
- Hela Crown-Tamir, Mevasseret Zion
- I think you should announce to the world, and specifically to the Palestinians, that the next time acts of violence are carried out against Israeli soldiers or civilians, the IDF will use live ammunition.
- I think you should allow Foreign Minister David Levy to resign.
- Ben Rabinowitz, Jerusalem
- Continue broadcasting the IBA English News in its present format.
- Levine Family, Kibbutz Urin
- Pass and enforce serious laws to stop the carnage [of road deaths]. Drivers with repeat violations must be jailed and fined so that it hurts. Impound vehicles during suspensions of repeat violators. Only our enemies benefit from us killing ourselves.
- Richard Betzalel LeVine, Safed
- Re-educate all civil servants and bank workers in the country. And while you're at it, let the waiters and shop attendants join.
- Alice-Betty de Bresser, Kfar Vadim

Mohammed replaces Marx in Arab salons

By ANTHONY SHADID

Adel Hussein has an odd collection of books on his shelves for one of Egypt's leading Islamic thinkers.

Titles like *Socialist Integration, On Communism and Planning in the U.S.S.R.* speak more of class struggle than the hand of God. The authors themselves — G. Sorokin, for instance — suggest Politburo politics rather than a source for religious ideas.

Hussein is no closet communist, however. Like a surprising number of others across the Arab and Muslim world, he is a one-time Marxist and nonbeliever who has turned to Islam, part of a new intellectual generation reshaping the religion.

"I benefited from Marx in both theory and practice," Hussein said in an interview at his Cairo apartment, remarkable for its lack of Koranic inscriptions so popular with other activist Muslims. "But now, Islam is my starting point and my framework."

Unlike their predecessors, who spent years immersed in the intricacies of Islamic law, these thinkers are often more adept at post-modernism than the sayings of the prophet Mohammed. They speak English and French, are versed in the literature and history of the West, and follow the latest trends in Western thought.

In a jarring twist, they are the same thinkers who a generation ago provoked the ire of religious Muslims because their Marxist disavowal of God was seen as the biggest threat to Islam.

Today, they are often the public face of Islam — writing in leading Arabic newspapers, speaking at conferences and on television talk shows, enjoying the support of many younger, more political Muslims interested in their

attempts to rethink Islam's relationship to democracy, minorities and the West.

They bring an overtly activist stance to Islam unlike traditional scholars who tend to be more concerned with questions of religious law, for example, or what is permissible under Islam.

"They discuss contemporary issues — what capitalism does, what consumerism does, what modern society does to women," said Binnaz Toprak, a professor at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, Turkey. "They're not constantly referring back to Islamic history and the Koran." These thinkers say their change merely reflects reality.

Hussein, for instance, says his goals have not changed. He still believes in social justice and Third World development.

But he now sees Islam, through its ability to persuade and to mobilize, as the best tool.

Like some traditional Islamic scholars, running through their thoughts is an anti-Western current. They respect what the West has created, but they resent its dominance over the economy, culture and politics.

Abdel-Wahab Elmessiri, a former leftist with a doctorate in poetry from Rutgers University in New Jersey, considers everything from pornography to pollution as Western ills for which Islam must find a solution.

Mohammed Amara, who writes in the prestigious London-based newspaper *Al-Hayat*, sees Islam's historical tolerance of minorities as an alternative to what he considers the West's racism and nationalism.

"You will see that Islam is the one framework that is open to all of us," Amara said.

Ali Bulac, a former Turkish leftist now prominent among Islamic thinkers with a following at universities, takes a similar tack. He

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REVIEWS

in brief

Concerts

Two faces of the IPO were revealed last week. The orchestra which played Bruckner's Seventh Symphony (July 9 in Jerusalem) was superb; the orchestra that played the Mahler arrangement of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* string quartet (July 10 in Tel Aviv) was far from inspiring. Zubin Mehta conducted both pieces. His rendition of the Bruckner opus was riveting and the orchestra responded with precision to his every nuance. But the strings, for many years the orchestra's trademark, were unimpressive in the Schubert opus. On both evenings Itzhak Perlman played Bruch's First Violin Concerto. As usual his tone was sweet and rounded, yet he seemed engrossed in the lyrical schmaltz of the opus. In Tel Aviv the concert opened with the premiere of Leon Schidlowsky's *Abraham*, performed with devotion by Mehta and the orchestra. This is not an easy opus but it is intriguing and is written in a clear late 20th-century idiom.

Michael Aizenstadt

The Haifa Symphony Orchestra concluded its season at Jaffa's Noga Theater with one of the most exciting programs and performances this orchestra has given in a long while. The premiere of Jan Radzynski's *Shirai Ma'ayan* enjoyed, as is usual with this orchestra, a superb reading under the caring leadership of music director Stanley Sperber, one of the leading champions of contemporary Israeli music. The composer chose two psalms (including the over-used *By the Rivers of Babylon*), presented in his own relentless style.

Leading Beethoven's Ninth Symphony for the first time, Sperber conducted without a score, and occasionally without a baton, in a commanding rendition. It was a tender, lyrical reading. The orchestra sound was occasionally thin, a note was missed here or there, and the choir was less impressive than the orchestra. But overall it was an impressive performance.

Michael Aizenstadt

Festival

"Do you want to hear something funky?" Nappy G. of New York City band Groove Collective asked rhetorically at Hayarkon Park Wednesday night. And the audience at this Parliament Arts festival gig, making up in spirit what it lacked in numbers, rushed to front stage center to boogie and shake their groove things from the opening number, "Saturday Night," which highlighted the finger gymnastics of Richard Worth on flute, straight through to the encore, "On the Mountain," a 20-minute jam which whisked you effortlessly back and forth from a smoky Chicago blues bar to a street corner in the Latin section of Manhattan's Lower East Side. The 10-member ensemble fused jazz, hip-hop, blues, tribal and Latin rhythms into a cohesive and joyous 90-minute romp that gave locals a taste of its four-hour long hometown gigs.

Tracy Fiske

Isaac Hayes and his band closed the festival with a high-energy show that had the audience dancing. In his deep, rumbling bass voice, Hayes captured his audience with his such as "Walk on By," "Do Your Thing," and "The Look of Love." The highlight came with his take on Sting's "Fragile." The finale had Hayes playing orchestra conductor to his 13-member backing band doing the theme from *Shogun*. He bounced around waving his arms to punctuate the beat. Coming at the end of a two-hour set, the calisthenics proved that at 55, Isaac Hayes is far from fading away.

Shai Tsur

Dance

The Karmiel Dance Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary with an abundance of dance activities around the clock. The program of Karmiel '97 included the National Ballet of Korea, Contemporary City Dance Company of Hong Kong, PACT - Dance Company (South Africa) Expressions (Australia) and the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, along with innumerable folk, ethnic and other dance expressions that are the core of the festival.

All the foreign dance companies made their Israeli debut in Karmiel, and all have terrific dancers. The Korean Ballet has male soloists who defy gravity, and supple, strong ballerinas. The contemporary company from Hong Kong fuses tradition with current disciplines to create a strongly political work. PACT of South Africa also walks the tightrope of cross-cultural issues.

Other highlights included the professional folk companies from Georgia and Chile, but the most dignified and touching performance was given by an amateur group, Hora on Wheels, of disabled ex-servicemen who took part in the opening night performance and brought to their feet some 15,000 cheering spectators.

Ora Brafman

THEATER REVIEW



A cast of promising young actors brings Joseph Heller's classic war comedy to life.

Heller's satire reduced to farce

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Catch-22, Joseph Heller's satirical anti-war novel of the Sixties, receives at the hands of Ilan Ronen a spirited transference to Habimah's Hebrew stage. Production-wise it is an arresting feat. Ronen, with his usual verve, directs his own translation-adaptation, exploiting the theatrical skills (including good diction) of a cast of young actors.

The latter are the same who, trained on a special group project, met the *commedia dell'arte* demands of Ronen's recent Habimah production of Machiavelli's *Mandragola* with such success. Here, however, the success of an otherwise excellent production is limited

CATCH-22

By Joseph Heller

to external effects, physical feats and farcical posturing. Slick movement, masterly timing, snappy direction (the brothel scene stands out among many), and use of a multi-level stage make for dynamic action.

This is backed by some promising performances, among them Guy Lowell's, Guy Mesika's, Sigalit Fox's, and Revital Snir's. Every element of aerial warfare - strafing, sirens, flight operations, action-stations, massive formations - are also conscripted to galvanize the macabre goings-on, not to mention a rather superfluous Dance of Death figure (Boris

Sichon) that hovers in the wings.

All to little avail, however, as far as Heller's black humor and initial intention go.

For instead of his bitter parody of corrupted military power in all its manifestations, what we have here, for all its gruesome melodrama, amounts to little more than a travesty of the original.

Milking it for every ounce of easy fun and farce, it mainly delivers a series of nonstop monologues, in quality close to stand-up comedy, that with unremitting vigor scream out for attention in typical Israeli vociferous style.

Somehow, somewhere, in the process, it misses out on the essence of Heller's timeless novel and its awesome condemnation of war.

IN TUNE

A solo too far

BY DAVID BRINK

There may not be much demand for yet another live Neil Young album, but that doesn't seem to bother rock's elder statesman and his crusty long-time sidekick Crazy Horse. For they plow through two CDs of old classics and forgotten B-sides with the same reckless abandon and ragged glory that has earned them the reputation as one of

THE day teenybopper faves Take That broke up was a dark moment for music fans because it meant that all its former members would eventually be releasing solo albums.

Now it's Gary Barlow's turn. Granted, he wrote some of the band's biggest hits, which is a dubious honor at best. But it proved that he's a master in the genre of light pop. And this set will only enhance his standing. There's nothing really dislikable about the songs, his voice or the music. But one can say the same thing about white bread.

The unifying musical theme of the record is that hokey synthesized keyboard sound which can be interpreted as either chimes or rain falling.

That sound effect would sound just right in an elevator, which is where you'll most likely be hearing these songs in the near future.

YEAR OF THE HORSE

Neil Young & Crazy Horse

(Red Arts)

OPEN ROAD

Gary Barlow

(Red Arts)

BAGSY ME

The Wannadies

(Red Arts)

rock's premier live acts.

Since there are so many official and bootleg options available to the Young fan, the grungemaster wisely mixes things up by featuring lesser-known work and altering well-worn arrangements. For instance, the 30-year-old Buffalo Springfield opus "Mr. Soul" is dressed down in a laconic acoustic version, while the exquisite "Pocahontas," originally from *Rust Never Sleeps*, is given full Crazy Horse treatment and makes up in power what it sacrifices in subtlety.

Some of the tunes are no more than excuses for the band to unleash its lumbering thunder. In concert, this may take the listener to the next plane, but on record the soloing seems endless.

Both "When You Dance" and "Big Time" could stand for some tightening up, and even Young's best Dylan imitation, "Barstool Blues," dissolves into a pointless jam.

But it's not all shattering guitars, as delicate treatments of "Human Highway" and "When Your Lonely Heart Breaks" provide a welcome respite.

Young is in fine voice and spirit throughout, and his commitment to the music is palpable.

There aren't many rockers into the fourth decade of their career of whom you can say that. May he stay forever young.



Power play: Neil Young (right) and Crazy Horse

THE Wannadies is the latest Swedish-via-England import, and they are every bit as engaging as last year's heroes The Cardigans. Bright, snappy pop subverted by distorted guitars, cheesy synthesizer, and offbeat lyrics that only non-native English speakers seem capable of writing are the main elements here. And it's quite grand, except for the overambitious finale, "That's All," which at over eight minutes is about six minutes too long.

However, when they keep to three-minute vignettes, The Wannadies work quirky wonders with the pop form.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	V/A	HITMAN 8
#2	4	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETITZI
#3	1	PRODIGY	FAT OF THE LAND
#4	6	TEAPACKS	NESHIKA LADOD
#5	9	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#6	10	V/A	HOUSE OF AGNOSIA
#7	7	RADIOHEAD	O.K. COMPUTER
#8	5	OST	SPACE JAM
#9	11	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#10	3	MICHAEL JACKSON	BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR
#11	22	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#12	12	RITA	COLLECTION
#13	RE	MADONNA	IMMACULATE COLLECTION
#14	14	V/A	JE TAIME
#15	NEW!	EN VOGUE	EVS

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A musical tribute to the Dead Sea Scrolls

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Michael Wolpe's activities as high-school teacher and composer have found themselves intertwined in a very unique way. The Israel Museum has commissioned the prolific 37-year-old composer, whose some 100 works are performed regularly by orchestras and musicians throughout the country, to write a new piece to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Wolpe, who lives in the Negev kibbutz Sde Boker, is most familiar with the topic. He recalls: "There was a time when I read the scrolls in earnest. I was especially interested in the social aspect of the life of the people of Qumran. Their rules and regulations fascinated the kibbutznik in me."

Wolpe might have written a large-scale opus concentrating on the text of the scrolls, "but the museum's commission was very specific, so I wrote a sort of chamber cantata for a children's chorus, two vocalists (Mira Zakai and Ofer Chalef), a string quartet with flute, clarinet and guitar, as well as two trumpets which are used as an additional element. And perhaps it was for the best because at times the texts of the scrolls can sound quite fascist or even bolshevik."

Wolpe has created a collage that

moves swiftly between past and present. "The museum requested that the work be based on the text of the scrolls, but I could not detach myself entirely from our time. So the textual collage I have created also features voices from our present and not-so-distant past, as well as sounds of the Mahaneh Yehuda market in Jerusalem on a busy day."

Musically speaking, there is a mixture of styles as well. "On the one hand I tried to convey the modes in which those people would have sung. I invented a kind of folk music that would have been appropriate for the time. In other parts of the piece I wrote in a serial manner reminiscent of Bartok. But on the whole it is a tonal opus which is quite eclectic."

The new opus is entitled *Times of Light and Darkness*, reflecting Wolpe's fascination with the duality in the life of the sect who lived in Qumran.

"On the one hand you read that they had a very good life, but then the Romans came and slaughtered them. I'm not sure if they knew about their impending doom. My theory is that they moved to the desert because they were running away from the hectic political life in Jerusalem," says Wolpe.

In more ways than one, the composer himself, who also lives in the desert, seems to share that notion.

Wolpe believes his new work is very contemporary. "I'm not a politician and I don't want the work to be didactic, but some of these texts are quite amazing. In their political content they are very extremist. Everything is either black or white for them and in that regard we have not changed. Their verbal violence is astonishing and to realize that nothing has changed since that time is very frightening."

Wolpe teaches high-school students both in Jerusalem and on his kibbutz. "I have just finished a year with 12th graders, some of whom are already in the army. One of them recently called to tell me how difficult it is for him to get used to army life. At the same time, I was writing about these people who on the one hand seemed to be leading a good, quiet life while on the other, they were talking about the assassination of their leaders. It is all too perplexing and amazingly contemporary."

Times of Light and Darkness will be premiered in Qumran on July 24 at 9:30 p.m. during the concluding ceremony of the international congress which the Israel Museum has organized for the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Excerpts from the new work will be heard Sunday at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem during the opening of the congress.

Albright confronts her Jewish past

By R.W. APPLE JR.

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — A diminutive figure in a black suit, Madeleine Albright emerged into the cobblestoned street from the old Jewish Town Hall, a pink neo-baroque building with a curlicue date, 1908, carved over its door.

Standing in the glare of television lights as twilight crept into darkness, she struggled not to cry and fought to banish the quaver from her voice as she told of the emotions she felt a few minutes earlier on seeing for the first time the names of her paternal grandparents painted on the wall of the Pinkas Synagogue, among those of 77,297 Czech and Slovak Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Albright had been to Prague many times before, but Sunday night was different. It was her first visit since she became secretary of state and her first since a biographer's research demonstrated that her parents had been born Jewish and that at least two of her grandparents had died in concentration camps.

Before, she said, she had never thought to look for their names in the synagogue, but "tonight I know to look for those names, and their image will be seared forever on my heart." There they were, at eye level to the left of the Torah — Korbelt Arnost and Korbelt Olga, the last name in red, the first names in black, their dates of birth in the late 19th century and death in the fires of World War II.

The true story of Albright's origins — what she called her "Jewish background" — was no longer a rumor, no longer a theory, but palpable, public and painful.

"As I stood looking at that melancholy wall, all the walls, I felt not only grief for those members of my family that were inscribed there, but I also thought about my parents," the secretary said. "I thought about the choice they made."

"They clearly confronted the most excruciating decision a human being can face when they left members of their family behind even as they saved me from certain death. I will always love and honor my parents and will always respect their decision, for that most painful of choices gave me life a second time." Albright's father, a diplomat, twice fled from what was then Czechoslovakia, first to escape Hitler, then to escape Stalin. He and his wife reached the United States in 1948. They brought up their daughter, she has said, as a Catholic, which by then they were too.

She later became an Episcopalian.

Gripping a statement that aides said she wrote herself in longhand early Sunday morning, Albright read it in a small voice. She kept her heels clamped tightly together, and several times she paused to gather herself.

"To the many values and many facets that make up who I am," she told a little knot of reporters and cameramen and a few onlookers, "I now add the knowledge that my grandparents and members of my family perished in the worst catastrophe in human history. So I leave here tonight with the certainty that this new part of my identity adds something stronger, sadder and richer to my life." When she finished reading, she took off her glasses, folded them and walked quickly, alone, head down, up the street and into the gloaming.

Nobody asked a question.

George Klein, a New York real-estate developer who said he was in Prague on vacation, came to hear the secretary. Klein, a co-chairman of the New York Holocaust Memorial Commission, said that "she seemed really, deeply, honestly and genuinely moved." Albright's emotionally charged visit began in the 15th-century Jewish cemetery, where an estimated 100,000 people are buried, 10 or more layers deep, in a tiny space littered with 12,000 tombstones scattered like the rocks of a moraine.

She walked with Tomas Kraus, executive director of the Federation of Jewish



After seeing her grandparents' names inscribed on a synagogue wall, Albright read an emotional statement.

(Reuters)

Communities of the Czech Republic, and Leo Pavlat, director of the Czech Jewish Museum. Kraus stopped several times to point out tombstones and to explain the symbols that denoted membership in various Jewish tribes.

When they moved on to the Town Hall, Kraus showed Albright the stark file card recording the fate of the Korbelt: both deported on July 30, 1942, 55 years ago, to Theresienstadt, he to die there, she to die at Auschwitz.

James Rubin, a longtime spokesman for the secretary, said there was some confusion about the death of her maternal grandmother, Ruzena Spieglova. That name does not appear on the walls of the synagogue or in the Town Hall records, although there are other Spieglovas listed.

Albright's maternal grandfather died of natural causes before the war.

The name of a cousin, Milena Demlova, is listed in the synagogue.

After a morning in St. Petersburg, Russia, and an afternoon in Vilnius, Lithuania, the secretary flew on to Prague, arriving in bright sunshine.

In Lithuania, Albright attended to more mundane matters, working hard to convince a roomful of university students who were clearly but politely skeptical of her stated reasons for omitting the three Baltic countries from the first round of NATO expansion.

Some of the students at Vilnius University, which will soon celebrate its 400th anniversary, sent President Clinton a letter before the summit meeting in Madrid, Spain, last week urging him to support the admission of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania instead of limiting the expansion to three nations — Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

In the final communiqué in Madrid, Romania and Slovenia were clearly placed at the head of the line for admission in the next round, probably in 1999, and the Baltic countries were mentioned much less prominently as candidates.

There and in meetings in Vilnius with the Baltic foreign ministers, Albright offered all the assurance she could, repeating pledges that "we are determined not to let any new lines appear in Europe." She told the ministers, "Europe cannot be whole without you," and described their nations as "serious candidates," subtly different from her description of Slovenia as one of the leading candidates during a stop in Ljubljana on Saturday.

During a meeting in St. Petersburg with the secretary early Sunday morning, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov of Russia reiterated Moscow's complaints about NATO expansion in general and said his country would take a particularly jaundiced view of any move to include the Baltic states, all of which have substantial ethnic Russian minorities.

Albright reiterated the standard NATO position that no country outside the organization could exercise a veto on its membership, including Russia. But according to a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity, she also said that no member had made a strong case for the Baltic states in Madrid.

In fact, only the Danes and the Norwegians, in what appeared to be a pro forma act of regional solidarity, spoke up for the Baltic nations at all at the summit.

When Albright appeared in the ceremonial hall of the university in Vilnius, a handsome, barrel-vaulted chamber with deep red walls and other Corinthian columns, it was clear that the students had done their homework.

She spoke directly to their concerns, telling them that "we will not punish you in the future just because you were subjugated in the past." But she also said, on a more cautious note, that "NATO membership is not an entitlement." And when they persisted, she asserted that "the Baltic states have only embryonic military structures" that did not fit them for NATO now. (New York Times)

AFTER COMMUNISM

Autocrats fight George Soros

By JUDITH MILLER

MINSK, Belarus — For the past decade, George Soros, the Hungarian-born financier and philanthropist, has spent more than a billion dollars promoting a free press and political pluralism abroad — everything the world's authoritarian rulers despise.

Now some of those political leaders are fighting back.

In Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Croatia, Soros' foundations have been accused of shielding spies and breaking currency laws. His employees have been assaulted and threatened with imprisonment or financial sanction for alleged crimes.

Here in Belarus, Soros recently suspended operations after the government, headed by Aleksandr Lukashenko, the popular but autocratic 42-year-old president, fined a Soros foundation \$3 million for alleged tax violations and seized its bank account.

While expressing a desire to resolve the crisis here and lessen tensions with other authoritarian governments, the man whose own fortune was made in high-stakes business gambles is vowing not to back down.

"We would like to continue working in Belarus, to do what we can wherever we can," Soros said in a recent interview in New York. "But we insist that all our foundations remain independent. We will not play by Mr. Lukashenko's rules." The growing pressure on Soros' philanthropic empire, which stretches from South Africa to Haiti and employs 1,300 people in 24 countries, with two regional offices in New York and Budapest, appears to have only stiffened his resolve.

This year he opened five new offices in Central Asia — Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia — and one in Guatemala, his first in Latin America. And soon he is to open nine new foundations in southern Africa, he said, expanding the number of countries in which his foundations are active to 40.

Moreover, given his growing personal fortune, which friends estimate at \$500 million, his efforts are likely to continue at current levels for at least a decade, and perhaps for two.

While American foreign aid in the last decade has been cut in half in real terms, Soros, 66, recently signed a 20-year lease on his new headquarters in New York.

In Central Europe alone, he spent more than \$123 million between 1989 and 1994 trying to help democracy take root — roughly five times the sum spent by the US government's chief democracy-promoting foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy.

Unlike US government development aid, about 80 percent of which is given to American contractors and consultants, most money Soros distributes is given quickly and with few strings to local groups and individuals, says Thomas Carothers, a former State Department lawyer at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, because local activists are less expensive and more efficient at spreading the democratic, free-market mantra.

Soros' philanthropy has its critics. Some say it is too impulsive and mercurial, too arrogant and micromanaged, too confined to friends on the left of center and not as open to public scrutiny. Others criticize his investment in countries to which he gives; Soros' defenders reply by citing strict rules within the foundations for avoiding conflicts of interest.

Soros noted, for example, that his investment company sold its interest in Alliant Technologies, a French company, after learning that Alliant helped manufacture land mines, a direct conflict with his program to ban land mines.

But Soros has permitted his foundation in Russia to own GTS, now the second-largest telecommunications company in Russia, because the profits accrue to the foundation, not to him or to his investment funds.

Some of those involved with his foundations wonder whether the financier is spreading himself too thin.

"His Central European giving has been effective partly because of his personal involvement and familiarity with the region and its problems," said a long-time associate, noting that Soros visits Eastern Europe about five times a year. "But can he possibly have the same passion for

nine new African countries?" Soros himself acknowledges that he has had setbacks, including, for example, his foundations in Russia, which he was forced to restructure after discovering that employees were diverting foundation funds into Swiss bank accounts and using them to buy luxury cars.

"I never have regrets," Soros said, "about having spent a lot of money trying to make things better." The current struggle in Belarus is shaping up as a test of Soros' staying power and a benchmark for him and perhaps for Central Europe.

Serbia last year revoked its foundation's permit before finally restoring it under Western pressure. Croatia has put three Soros foundation employees on trial, charged with currency violations, a criminal offense.

But no government has ever forced a Soros foundation to close permanently.

"If Lukashenko can take Soros down, no one is safe," said Andrei Sannikov, Belarus' former deputy foreign minister, who quit his post last year. "Perhaps not even in Russia, where our president's right-wing allies in Moscow sit and wait for Boris Yeltsin to die and their nationalist moment to come." Standing up to the West by taking on a man as powerful as George Soros would enhance Lukashenko's standing among hard-line nationalists, another diplomat said. "Kicking out Soros," he added, "is like shutting down General Motors."

Soros' troubles in Belarus can be traced to the 1994 elections, when Lukashenko, a former boss of a collective farm, won an overwhelming victory.

While Belarus' previous government had stressed national identity and sought to free the country from Russian control, Lukashenko campaigned on a platform of reunifying Belarus with the Russian heartland and its fellow Slavs, while ending corruption.

After taking office, he set out to restore at least the symbols of Russian rule, and appeared determined, one diplomat said, to make Belarus, a Kansas-sized nation of 10 million people, a "Soviet theme park." This year he and Yeltsin signed a "unity" agreement, though it was watered down at the last minute at the insistence of Yeltsin's liberal advisers, who dislike Lukashenko and fear his right-wing Russian friends.

Lukashenko lost no time in (literally) re-hosting the red flag.

"We have McDonald's, but no freedom of assembly," said Sannikov, the former deputy foreign minister. "People have subsistence potatoes and vodka; the streets are clean and well-maintained. Lukashenko doesn't kill massively because he doesn't have to. This is the new face of dictatorship in Europe." To express its displeasure, Washington has suspended some \$40 million in aid. Europe, too, has frozen aid, as have the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, all so far without visible political effect.

A report in April from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe accused Belarussians of "constructing a totalitarian government" and found a "clear pattern" that the government was using tax audits and fines to silence opposition.

The report also criticized a referendum last November that allows the President to rule by decree, and permits random arrests, of opposition leaders. The new definition of "order" was characterized as "a complete lack of public expression of any views not authorized by the authorities." It is no accident, diplomats say, that the first person expelled from Belarus was Peter G. Byrne, an American who directed the Belarus Soros Foundation, which finances about 80 percent of the country's tiny independent sector. (In Belarus there are 1,115 officially registered associations not controlled by the government, only a handful of which are politically active or foreign sponsored.) Lukashenko has set his tax collectors against virtually every major foreign-supported foundation, as well as the independent news media, arguing that they support the opposition.

See **SOROS**, Page 10



Soros: democratic giving (Israel Sun)

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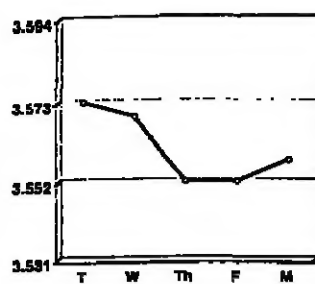
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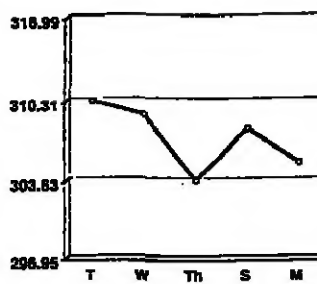
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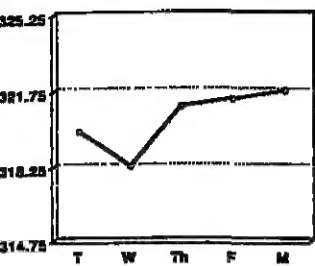


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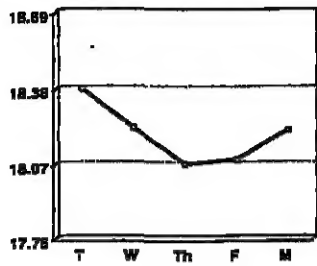
GOLD

\$ per ounce

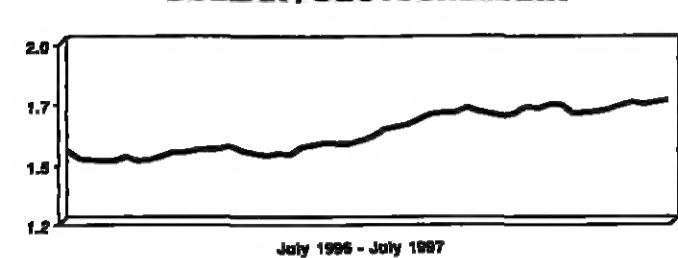


OIL

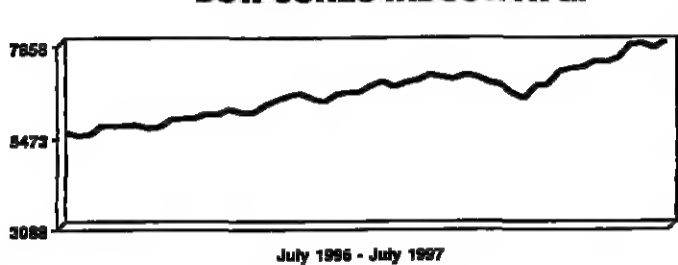
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Gov't to submit natural gas bill

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Finance and National Infrastructure ministries will introduce legislation to the Knesset to lay the framework for the natural gas industry, according to a joint statement published yesterday.

No schedule was given for the start of the legislative process.

After several months of disagreements over the future of the industry, the two bodies reached agreement.

The government will play no part in the running of the industry, which will be entirely in the private sector. However, the companies

that win the operating tenders will have to operate within the framework of the "natural gas market law."

The agreement, which has still to be confirmed by the ministerial economics committee, calls for the establishment of a committee under the chairmanship of National Infrastructure Ministry director-general Giora Rom, which will work to hasten the purchase of gas from one or more foreign suppliers.

The relevant ministries will now sit together to decide on the exact geographical routes of the land-based and underwater pipelines that will bring the gas to Israel and then control its distribution.

Separate licenses will be awarded for imports, distribution, and marketing. The Israel Electric Corporation, which will be the largest gas purchaser, will enter negotiations for the supply of gas to operate its turbines.

Eventually, gas imports will not be restricted to a monopoly, but anyone will be allowed to purchase gas from foreign suppliers.

Later this month or early in August, the National Infrastructure Ministry will resume talks with Russian-based RAO Gazprom, the world's largest natural gas supplier.

Other countries still being considered as suppliers include Egypt and Qatar.

Merrill Lynch purchases 12.5% stake in Bezeq

Livni: Terms of \$250m. deal no more favorable than C&W's

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
and GLOBE NEWS SERVICE

Merrill Lynch, the world's largest equities underwriter, has bought from the government a 12.5 percent stake (90.6 million shares) in the national telecom company Bezeq for \$250 million, State Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni announced yesterday.

The deal caught by surprise analysts, investors and company workers, who waged a protest strike.

According to the terms of the block trade agreement, Merrill Lynch purchased a 2.5% stake

for \$50m., which is market value minus 5%.

An additional 10%, bought for the full market price of \$200m., was sold with an option to return the shares if Merrill fails to find buyers for it by the end of February 1998.

In that event the government will buy back the shares at NIS 9.79 a share plus an unspecified interest rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate.

The deal brings Merrill Lynch's investment in Israeli companies up to NIS 1.2b.

In June, Merrill Lynch acquired a 19.2% stake in pharmaceutical company Agis

Industries Ltd. The company has also bought stakes in high-tech companies Formula Systems Ltd., Liraz Systems Ltd and Geotek Ltd.

The sale of Bezeq shares reduces the government's holding in Bezeq to 63.5% from 76%.

Earlier this year, the Knesset Finance Committee approved the State Companies Authority's plan to reduce the government's stake in Bezeq to 52%.

Asked why the move was made, Livni said the government did not believe it could unload the entire 24% on a stock exchange.

The government, which originally planned to offer Bezeq shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in August, will offer up to 11.5% of the company "later this year," she said.

Cable and Wireless PLC of the UK, which has a 10% stake in Bezeq, has repeatedly said it would like to own a bigger chunk of the company.

The government is currently negotiating with C&W over the possibility of future deals. Livni flatly denied suggestions that the deal Merrill got was better than C&W's.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange responded positively to the news

of the deal, appreciating Bezeq's share by 1.5% to NIS 10.26.

Meanwhile, Moshe Leon, senior economic adviser to the prime minister, said he sees the deal as a vote of confidence in the government's economic performance.

"The size of the deal says it all," he said.

As a result of the sale, the government has moved closer to achieving its goal of privatizing NIS 4b. in state assets in 1997, Leon said. If the government completes the sale of holdings in state-owned banks, the government will surpass its NIS 4b. target for the year.

Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line excluded from Railway 2000 program

New timetable includes 25% more trains daily

By SYBIL EHRLICH
and DAVID HARRIS

Plans for a new commuter railway line between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem will not be implemented until 2005 at the earliest, Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani said yesterday.

Uzani said the Railways 2000 program, which includes plans for widespread improvements and new services, would only include Gush Dan and the Haifa area.

As part of the plan's implementation, Uzani announced a reduction in journey times between Haifa and Tel Aviv from one hour to 50 minutes, an increase in the number of daily passenger trains nationwide from 90 to 113, and long-term plans for electrified double-decker trains.

While accepting the national significance of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv service, which at some point in the future is supposed to also stop at Ben-Gurion Airport, Uzani said current budgetary restrictions prevent the upgrading of the existing service for at least eight years.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon agreed in recent days to support Israel Railways' claim for a 1998 budget of NIS 400 million.

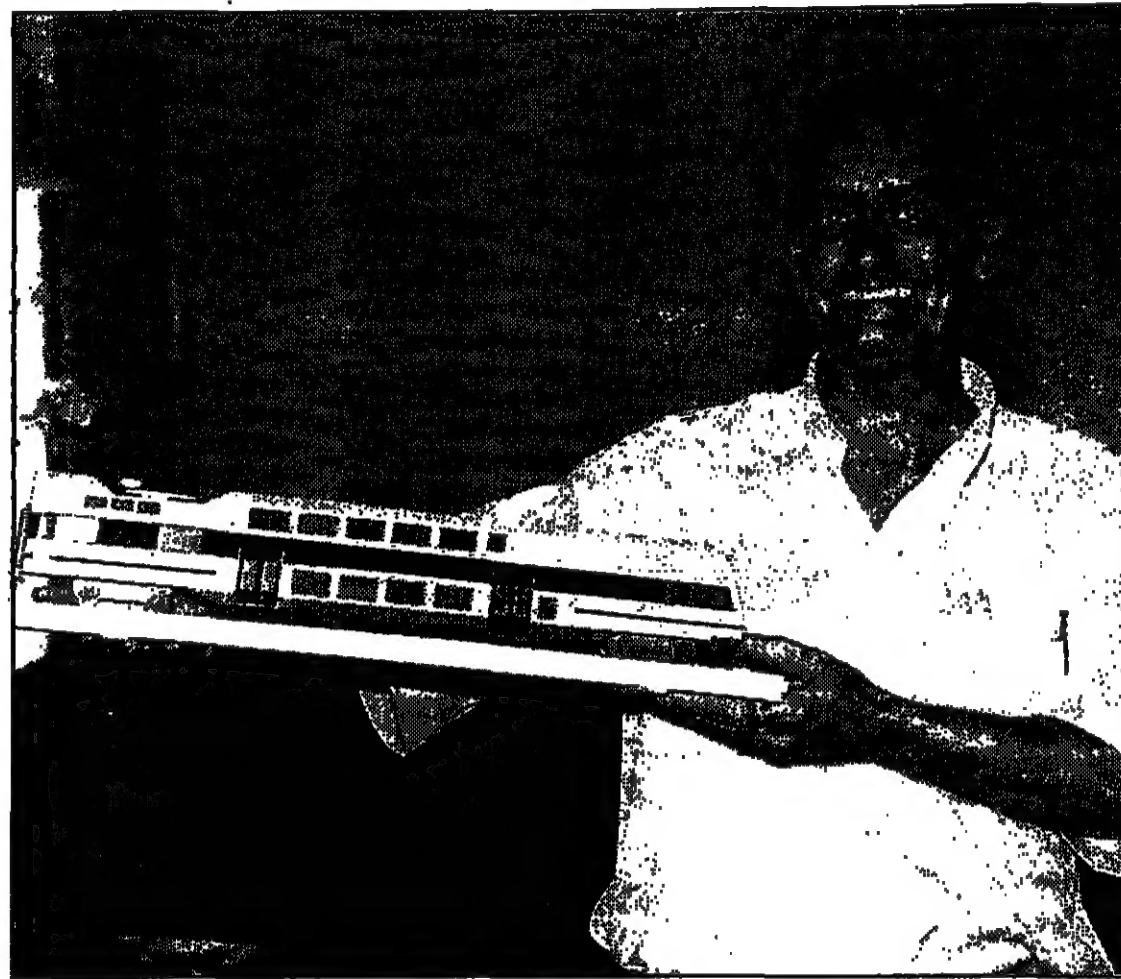
Uzani has already had tacit approval from Finance Ministry director-general Shmuel Slavin for NIS 300m. next year. Uzani's initial request was for NIS 500m.

He was guaranteed by the government that there will be no cut in the railway's budget this year as part of the planned NIS 600m. additional reduction in government spending.

A government discussion of the railways' budget will be held in the coming weeks, according to Uzani.

He intends proposing the setting of a multi-year budget and permission to award future contracts well in advance.

The new timetable, which



Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani holds a model of an electrified double-decker train while announcing the authority's long-term intention to operate them, with the introduction of the first electrified lines to Kfar Sava and Rishon LeZion.

comes into effect Saturday night, includes:

- extending the Tel Aviv-Netanya service to Binyamina;
- a 50-minute journey time on the four daily non-stop trains between Haifa and Tel Aviv, thanks to signalling improvements and the doubling of the track.

The route is likely to be reduced to 45 minutes in coming weeks;

- increasing the number of daily services on the Tel Aviv-Netanya route from 59 to 67.

There will be a greater number

of trains operating to Ashdod with the completion of signalling work in mid-1998.

Uzani also announced the long-term intention to operate double-decker trains, with the introduction of the first electrified lines to Kfar Sava and Rishon LeZion.

Uzani pointed out that train purchases are far simpler than the more pressing infrastructure investments required.

Israel Railways expects a record 6.3 million passengers this year, but maintains that with an annual NIS 500m. budget

over the next five years, that total could reach 44 million.

By October this year, Israel Railways will receive an additional 20 new carriages, in addition to 20 purchased recently, giving an extra 1,600 seats.

Admitting there have been differences between himself and senior executives in charge of the planned Tel Aviv subway, Uzani said talks are now being held in which he is insisting that at least two subway stations be constructed adjoining railway stations along the Ayalon Highway.

Netanyahu, Ne'eman, Frenkel to discuss budget today

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel are scheduled to meet today to discuss the planned NIS 600 million additional cut in 1997 government expenditure.

The cut is needed to ensure the budget deficit does not exceed the government's target of 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product.

The Treasury confirmed yesterday that the government will hold its first discussion of the economy before the end of the month, with a view to approving a 1997 cut and to begin debating next year's budget.

Initially, the cabinet was to hold macroeconomic discussions at the end of every quarter this year, but this did not happen in April.

The government will debate the general state of the economy and the budget and then make the relevant decisions, which will be implemented during the remaining five months of the year. Additionally, there will be discussions of the budget deficit, revenues, expenditure and structural changes.

Internal Treasury talks held yesterday focused on the 1997 and 1998 budgets, but also looked ahead to the following two years.

Currently there are no discussions in the Treasury regarding reforms to the taxation system, according to a statement from the ministry.

The current fiscal year's budget was cut last year by NIS 7.2b. in a move which was met by fierce opposition on the part of the so-called social lobby within the coalition.

Though former finance minister Dan Meridor managed to keep that cut's general framework intact and consequently reduce the budget deficit which he had inherited from the Labor government, it later emerged that to keep the budget within its legal limits a supplementary cut must be introduced already this year.

Grappling with this situation appears to be the most pressing issue on Ne'eman's agenda.

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SOROS
Continued from Page 9

Lukashenko has gone over the edge, said the Rev. Paul Moore, an American who heads Cithope International, a New York charity that has provided more than \$5m. in medicine since 1992 and which was recently told it must pay tax on its contributions. As of now, we are out of business in Belarus.

The Belarussian Soros Foundation made 5,000 grants totaling just over \$6m. last year.

One of the largest went to the foundations Step by Step education project, which enrolls 1,000 Belarussians from kindergarten to high school. The program, which encourages children to think for themselves, had won the support of two education ministers and four deputy ministers since its inception four years ago.

But problems abounded even before the government charged the foundation with tax fraud, said Irimia Lapiskaya, its director.

Customs officers, for instance, kept a \$5,000 wooden play house for Kindergarten No. 56 in Minsk in storage for more than a year until hefty duties were paid.

Also in jeopardy is Soros support for high-school debates, Belarus only law library, the Transformation of the Humanities project, which oversaw the selection and publication of 53 new textbooks last year,

and a \$500,000 program to link Belarus to the Internet, a mainstay of Soros philanthropy.

The irony is we have connected state institutions to the Internet, but not yet the independent sector, said Igor Boskin, the foundations technical director.

So from the governments standpoint, this is a perfect place to stop our work. Foreign Minister Ivan L. Antanovich insisted in an interview that Belarus was becoming more democratic, but slowly. He said Soros had been let down by his staff, who he said were supporting opposition political groups.

In addition, he contended, the foundation had been extremely careless with financial matters, a charge for which he offered no evidence.

The foundation has not financed nor will it finance the opposition, Soros replied in the interview. We insist on preserving our independence. We would like to stay in Belarus, but not at any price.

If Soros regrets his decision to spend two-thirds of his time and half of his annual income on promoting democracy abroad and a more tolerant society in the US, there is no sign of it.

He exudes the quiet confidence of a man who knows his access to almost any world leader, including President Clinton, is just a phone call away.

In the interview, he said his philanthropy was still most heavily influenced by his former professor,

Sir Karl Popper, a philosopher who wrote a renowned critique of Marx and Marxism.

It was Poppers emphasis on addressing unintended consequences that led to some of Soros most creative giving the \$127m. in grants he made between 1992 and 1996 to Russian scientists to discourage them from selling their nuclear know-how to the highest bidder, for instance, or his \$50m. gift in 1992 to help alleviate the suffering of Bosnian civilians.

But he acknowledged that he was increasingly concerned about political developments in the Balkans and efforts by East European governments to centralize power.

Soros is deeply disappointed in Washington's failure to seize what he saw as a historic moment created by the fall of communism. The West, he said, has failed to pour money and resources into bolstering the former communist nations pluralistic, tolerant and independent forces the forces that underpin Western democracies.

At the same time, he said, he is encouraged by the growing social cohesion of the people of the former Soviet bloc.

Yes, he had known failure, Soros said. But I'm willing to have the failures to get the successes, he continued.

I was just naive in thinking that it was only a question of time before the US government and the American people would feel the same.

New York Times

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.375	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.7.97)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8136	3.8754	3.47	3.54	3.8414
German mark	1.9718	2.0031	1.93	2.04	3.5580
Pound sterling	5.8908	6.0687	5.85	6.15	6.0049
French franc	0.5830	0.5925	0.57	0.61	0.5876
Japanese yen (100)	3.1002	3.1508	3.20	3.20	3.1228
Dutch florin	1.7526	1.7809	1.72	1.81	1.7846
Swiss franc	2.3948	2.4365	2.35	2.47	2.4155
Swedish krona	0.4321	0.4384	0.44	0.47	0.4785
Norwegian krone	0.4725	0.4802	0.48	0.54	0.5210
Danish krone	0.5192	0.5276	0.51	0.58	0.5703
Finnish mark	0.6857	0.6785	0.66	0.69	0.6828
Canadian dollar	2.5918	2.6439	2.53	2.66	2.6000
Australian dollar	2.8072	2.8493	2.75	2.88	2.8238
S. African rand	0.7759	0.7885	0.76	0.79	0.7817
Belgian franc (10)	0.9546	0.9700	0.93	0.98	0.9624
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8017	2.8449	2.75	2.88	2.8238
Italian lira (1000)	2.0318	2.0844	1.99	2.10	2.0498
Jordanian dinar	4.9631	5.0835	4.82	5.25	5.0702
Egyptian pound	1.0100	1.0800	1.01	1.09	1.1206
ECU	3.6889	3.9517	—	—	3.8207
Irish punt	5.3243	5.4102	5.23	5.40	5.3559
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3396	2.3784	2.29	2.41	2.3573

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
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مكاتب العمل

An over-night sensation

Half a decade after becoming its president, Israeli hotelier Eric Pfeffer brings Howard Johnson to the Holy Land

By HICKY BLACKBURN

It's obvious Eric Pfeffer has told his story many times. He has it down pat, from the lessons he learned as a youngster in his father's business at the age of 15, to the moment he met his wife, to his climb up the corporate ladder. Still, it's an interesting story, and he tells it with much enthusiasm. "Most successful businessmen have big egos, and they like to talk about themselves," he admits straight away.

Who is Eric Pfeffer? Internationally he's known as the president and managing director of the new global services division of HFS Incorporated, the world's largest franchiser of hotels and residential real-estate brokerage offices. Locally, he's a regular hero. In just 15 years, the 45-year-old Israeli rose from desk clerk of a hotel in Miami, to president of one of America's biggest hotel chains. It's one of those success stories that Israelis love to hear.

Pfeffer, who was in Israel recently to launch the company's newest venture — four new Howard Johnson hotels — was born in Venezuela and spent much of his childhood there. His parents were Holocaust survivors from Poland who met after World War II. His father was a natural-born entrepreneur, running a variety of businesses through his life. Sometimes he made pots of money, other times he went bankrupt. From an early age, Pfeffer was encouraged to work in his father's stores. "At Christmas I had the role of opening the door and letting two people out and two in. The place was packed," he says.

When he was 12 years old, Pfeffer was sent from Venezuela to boarding school in Netanyahu, to be near his older brother who was also studying in Israel. Their parents arrived three years later.

Pfeffer's father opened a restaurant in Jaffa called Jacob's Quick Bar. It was an unparalleled flop. "In one-and-a-half

years he went bankrupt," says Pfeffer. "If someone was rude to a waitress, he'd throw them out. He didn't have a restaurant mentality, especially for Jaffa."

Every day after high school, Pfeffer would take two buses to the restaurant to watch over the cash register while his father, who got up at 4 a.m. every day, rested. "He was control-oriented," says Pfeffer. "I learned an important lesson though, that the ringing of cash registers is music to my ears. Basically a company's report card is its bottom line. I never forget that. In corporations people tend to go from pay check to pay check. I always know the bottom line."

After high school, Pfeffer served in the army and fought in the Yom Kippur War. Afterward he planned to study industrial engineering at the Technion, but two friends persuaded him that with his language skills, the United States would be a better option.

Pfeffer began studying hotel management at the University of Miami and a few days after his arrival took a job in a petrol station to support himself. It was there that he met his future wife, who he married six weeks later. After 22 years, they are happily married with two daughters.

Marriage gave Pfeffer a green card and the chance for a "proper" job. In December 1976, he began working as a desk clerk for a Howard Johnson hotel in north Miami. Affectionately known as HoJo, the Howard Johnson hotels were, at that time, based only in North America. They were primarily aimed at the mid-price market.

When Pfeffer graduated from college, he took a job as assistant general manager at the Howard Johnson hotel near Disney World in Orlando. Eighteen months later, he was general manager of the hotel in Miami where he'd been a desk clerk previously.

Over the next few years, he rose quickly through the ranks until, by the age of



Pfeffer: Where personal roots and company strategy meet.

33, he was a regional manager in charge of 24 hotels and 20 restaurants. In 1991, a year after the company was bought out by HFS, he became president of the Howard Johnson chain.

"I was very young," admits Pfeffer. "In Europe or the Middle East, they won't let you manage things until you have gray hair. In the US it's different. If you can deliver, age doesn't matter. I learned a lot from the Israeli army. There, it's natural to learn how to take control."

During this period Pfeffer effected many important changes. For starters, HoJo needed a new image. Famous for its orange roofs, which are as much an American icon as apple pie, Pfeffer decided it was time to move away from this look. His first task was to create a new logo, after which he gave hotels the

go-ahead to build without the trademark orange roofs. In a bid to improve streamline service, he kicked out 37 hotels for quality shortfalls.

He also began a policy of globalization, breaking ground outside North America for the first time, in destinations such as Colombia, Mexico and Dubai. Under his leadership, 40 international franchised lodging properties were added to the company and agreements for more were signed with Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Thailand, Malaysia and South Africa. The company now has 500 properties around the world.

As part of this move, Israel was a natural choice. So far four hotels have been franchised, the Neptune in Eilat, the Ruth Rimon Inn in Safed, the Ganei Eilat and the Ganei Kinneret in Tiberias.

Owned by Israel Land Development Hotels Corp., which is now representing Howard Johnson in Israel, the hotels have all been upgraded to HoJo standards and will operate under the company's top brand name, Howard Johnson Plaza. All are in the three to five star range.

Six more hotels will be opened here over the coming year, and Shlomo Groffman, chairman of the Israel Land Development Hotels Corp., says the company plans to open another five or six hotels in Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

In April 1996, Pfeffer became head of a new global services division at HFS. His role is to oversee international sales, services and preferred vendor activities for HFS Inc. Growth is his aim.

HFS owns many large franchise companies including Days Inn, Kings Inn, Super 8, Villager Lodge and Wingate Inn in lodging; and Century 21, ERA and Coldwell Banker in residential real estate. It also owns Avis Inc., the second largest car-rental company and Resort Condominiums International Inc., the largest provider of vacation timeshare exchanges worldwide.

Three years ago, HFS brought Days Inn to Israel. It now has seven hotels. A branch of ERA, a company which recruits agents to buy and sell houses, has opened in Jerusalem and a partnership agreement has been signed with Century 21. HFS also plans to bring Super 8 to Israel.

"Israel's tourism industry has really evolved in the last few years," says Pfeffer. "In the past, Israelis were not service-oriented. It went against the grain. Parents wanted their children to be engineers or lawyers not hotel managers or waiters. That has improved, partly because of competitive forces, but also because you can't have pretty hotels and restaurants without deliver-

ing the product." In addition, he says, facilities, infrastructure and destinations have all improved.

Despite the blast of publicity accompanying Howard Johnson's arrival in Israel, the hotels are opening at a bad time. Since 1996, there has been a sharp decline in the number of visitors vacationing in Israel, and this deterioration is likely to continue while regional instability and the threat of terror attacks continues.

Pfeffer, however, seems relatively unconcerned. "When the market is doing badly, hotels look for other ways to promote their business. They want security blankets like franchising."

Brand names are also becoming an important worldwide trend. "Every hotel chain has come to Israel now. It's the process of globalization. Everyone wants international names."

For HoJo, the falling tourism industry in Israel will have an impact — if profits at the hotels go down, the company's profits will follow suit so will the company's — but it's a small dip in a large bank account.

"Everything is cyclical anyway," says Pfeffer. "I don't know why business people always expect revenues to go up. It's naive and unrealistic."

For all his confidence, however, there is still an edge of uncertainty in Pfeffer's voice. Israel may be a country with "much potential for the American tourist," but politics and peace do have an important role to play.

"Without a peace accord, market ups and downs will continue. The government wants to double the number of US visitors to one million by the year 2000. That's a major undertaking. I hope and pray peace will succeed, not just for the tourism industry. Safety fears are a major obstacle."

Still, he refuses to give up. "I like to look at the glass half full," he says. "I'm optimistic. I hope one million Americans do come."

MOTORING

Class conscious

Straddling the line between executive and family cars, the attractive and powerful Lantra 2000 tries to offer the best of both worlds

By JOEL GORDON



For many years automobiles with an engine size of 2,000cc or more were regarded in Israel as executive-class cars. Their prices were usually in excess of the dividing line between "family-class" and "executive-class" models (currently around NIS 100,000). However, over the past couple of years, a number of less expensive "two-liters" have crept into our showrooms. They have what could be described as "the body (and accessories) of a family car, but the heart (or engine) of an executive car."

US-built models such as the Chevrolet Cavalier and the Chrysler Neon began the trend and were later joined by the Ford Tracer, the Kia Clarus, the Daewoo Aspero, the Renault Megane 2-liter — and now the Hyundai Lantra 2000. The dealers obviously prefer to call these automobiles "super family cars," rather than "cars for poor executives," as the press has dubbed them.

The external appearance of the Hyundai Lantra 2000 is identical to the latest, face-lifted versions of its younger sisters, the Lantra 1.6 and 1.8 in their GLS versions — and this is one of its greatest strengths. The new Lantra, with its sleek, curved front end and powerful, flowing, muscular, aerodynamic, sporty body topped off by shining magnesium hubcaps and a rear spoiler is one of the most externally attractive automobiles on today's local market. It is every bit as eye-catching as the Mazda Lantis or the Renault Megane, and there is no doubt that good looks play a huge part in successful sales. Hyundai's CEO in Israel, Doron Vadai, believes, in fact, that "few buyers inspect the car's engine, but they all look at its body."

The new Lantras are also handsome on the inside. The well-planned, ergonomic dash has its curves in all the right places. The driver's field of vision, front and rear, is excellent. The standard accessories include everything that a buyer of a super-family automobile could hope to own. The price includes the high-tech automatic shift with overdrive

and "cancel overdrive" program; a factory-installed radio/cassette and climate controller; power steering; four power windows; electrically controlled side mirrors; central door locking; metallic paint and magnesium hubcaps. The trunk, hood and gasoline tank may be opened from inside the car and the steering wheel can be adjusted for height. Safety features include two front airbags, four disc brakes, plus ABS and an early-brake warning system (the rear brake lights flash when the driver lifts his or her foot from the accelerator, even before pressing on the brake).

The seating is pleasant and functional, rather than plush, and the inside dimensions are comfortable for five, yet not spacious. The trunk may be enlarged by folding forward the rear seat either completely or in part.

The difference between the 2000 and its younger sisters is, of course, in the engine. The 1600's engine generates 114 horsepower, the 1800's engine gives 128 horsepower. The 2000's engine, like the sporty Lantra Coupe's, belts out a massive 138 horses.

The dealers are quick to describe the 2000 as having the "body of the standard Lantra and the engine of the Coupe," i.e. the "best of both worlds." However, in practice, when the two are combined, they take away from each other rather than add up to the perfect automobile. Red-blooded lovers of roaring, high revs and the sporting life will not be satisfied by the 2000 and will still have to shell out NIS 99,000 for the Coupe. The 2000 is powerful rather than sporting. Its "sporting" potential is blunted by a somewhat sluggish automatic shift and by the more conservative family person — with softer suspension, for example.

The 2000 is better suited for the conservative family person who can't afford (or does not need) a full-blown executive automobile, but who travels long distances and prefers a big engine for its greater performance on hills or while overtaking. This in contrast to drivers who speed for speed's sake.

The 2000 is a whiz on our speed-limited highways. If you cancel the overdrive, you can cruise at between 90 km/h and 100 km/h at around 2,500 r.p.m., which means a silent, relaxed drive. The soft suspension sucks up the bumps, and there's no trouble with the road-holding. The steering is light, but precise. There are no manufacturer's figures available for gas consumption, but I calculated it to be around 11 km/l.

The price for the bigger engine is high. For example, the 1600 automatic GLS, which has the identical body and the same accessories, costs NIS 82,500. The 1800 GLS automatic costs NIS 84,500. Most Israelis, I believe, would like more than just a more powerful engine for the extra NIS 7,000-NIS 9,000. They will either pay less and buy the

1.6 or 1.8 or they (or their company) will shell out more than NIS 100,000 for a flashy executive car with bigger measurements and upmarket accessories.

In any event, the 2000 cannot be dismissed as a "car for poor executives." Taken at face value, it is a solid, attractive, powerful, driver-friendly automobile.

HYUNDAI LANTRA 2000 GLS
ENGINE SIZE: 1,975cc, 16 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 138 at 6,000 r.p.m.
TORQUE: 18.4 at 4,800 r.p.m.
GEARS: automatic
MAXIMUM SPEED: 195 km/h
ACCELERATION: From 0-100 km/h in 10.8 secs.
PRICE: NIS 91,900 (1997 models are currently on offer for NIS 88,900)

High-flying deals

With Tracer to the US? It's the latest jingle from the Israel Automobile Company. No, the local Ford dealers are not starting a new airline. However, if you buy a Ford Tracer before the end of August, you receive a round-trip ticket to the US — presumably to the east coast, during September. (The airline tickets may be exchanged for another gift of similar value.)

The offer is worth analyzing carefully. The landing price for the US-made family-class Tracer is NIS 84,900, rising to NIS 87,900 for a version with upmarket accessories such as cruise control. A ticket to the US in September costs around \$1,100 or NIS 2,350 (although it obviously costs the company much less than that). That means the buyer is getting a gift worth about five percent of the automobile's price. One of the "catches" is that the dealer is offering 1997 models that, according to the company, are about 10% of their value on August 15.

Against this consider the rising price of the dollar, which will probably hike the price of the US-made Tracer by at least 5%-10% very shortly.

Remember, there is no difference between the 1997 and 1998 Tracers except for the date stamp on the chassis. The reason that many dealers offer gifts on automobile purchases rather than discounted prices is that "sales" can play havoc with used-car prices and cause distress and resentment among customers who bought before the "sale." Local dealers, especially those who are stock with stocks of last year's models, attract purchasers by offering anything from radio-cassette to free airline tickets.

One company that actually prefers to reduce prices rather than hand out gifts is Colnobile, the Hyundai dealers. Currently, they have cut the price of the 1997 Hyundai Lantra 2000, reviewed above, by about 2%, from NIS 91,900 to NIS 88,900. —J.G.

PEOPLE

BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

The Dan Hotel chain has beaten the State to the punch in launching its 50th anniversary celebrations. On the day of the launch, Mickey Federmann, chairman of the Dan board of directors, traveled to each of the company's hotels nationwide to hoist the Dan flag. He was aided at each destination by the mayor of the city. The company's flagship hotel, the Dan Tel Aviv, was purchased by brothers Yehudit and Samuel Federmann in 1947. The chain now comprises 9 hotels with a total of 2,500 rooms and a staff of approximately 3,000. The company's turnover in 1996 was \$134 million.

Moshe Maron has been named head of the projects division at Elad Systems where he has been employed for the past three years. In his new position, Maron will be responsible for planning, development, information systems, turn-key projects, and management and maintenance of internal and external development systems.

Omer Food Brands, franchisees for Haagen Dazs and Dorel's Pizzeria, have named Amir Eilat as vice-president for finances. Eilat, who has worked for OFB for four years, was previously the controller for the company and its subsidiaries, and prior to that was controller for Regent

Investments, which has a 26.35 percent stake in Omri Eilat. 36, holds economics and accountancy degrees from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Haim Krupsky, who heads the Isracard corporation, and El Al Director-General, Yoel Feldschub have signed a three-month agreement effective from July 15, whereby Isracard users who are members of El Al's frequent fliers club can use stars acquired in the More Oils with Isracard campaign toward frequent flyer miles. Four stars equal one frequent flyer point.

Barry Spielman has been appointed executive-director of Bar-Ilan University's Global Board of Trustees. Spielman was previously manager of marketing communications at RND networks Ltd., a member of the RAD Group. He holds a BA in political science from Bar-Ilan and an MA in national security studies from George Washington University. He also has an MS in management from Boston University. A major in the IDF (Res.), Spielman served for seven years in the IDF Spokesman's office.

The Bezeq Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Yehochanan Seri as acting director-general of Bezeq

Cable Communications. Seri, who has been with Bezeq since 1966 filling several senior positions, has a master's degree in public administration from Bar-Ilan University. He is also a graduate of Tel Aviv University, specializing in social studies and political science.

Motl Sadeh has been appointed vice-president for sales at Eldor Computers. Sadeh has extensive experience in establishing and managing computer companies, financial management, marketing and sales.

After nine years with the Club Hotel group, Itzhak Wolf has been appointed the company's general manager. Prior to assuming his new position, he was general manager of Club Hotels International and headed the team that constructed the Club Hotel Eilat, which opened earlier this year. Yoram Grozner, another veteran Club Hotel employee, has been named deputy general manager of Club Hotels' management company, which is responsible for the operations of Club Hotel Eilat, Club Inn, Eilat, and Club Hotel, Tiberias. Before joining Club Hotels several years ago, Grozner held senior management positions with the Sheraton, Canadian Pacific and Hyatt chains.

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

20.7 The Ministry of Science is organizing a seminar on the Benefits and Hazards of Human Genetic Cloning. The seminar, sponsored in conjunction with an international science workshop for youth under the auspices of the Association for Excellence in Education, will take place in the auditorium of the (Malcha, Jerusalem) School for Science and the Humanities. Speakers will focus on the medical, moral, halachic and legal implications of human cloning.

20.7 Awareness of the Land of Israel and the State of Israel Among the Jews of Spain and of the East is the focal point of a five-day conference taking place at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute. The conference will also deal with Jewish coexistence with the Palestinians and the first meetings with Palestinian leadership, which resulted from the initiative of Elihu Eliashar.

21.7 The liberalization of Israel's foreign currency laws has prompted the Financial Institute of Israel to launch a discussion on Opening Up the

Israeli Market to International Financial Resources. The event will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

24.7 Contrary to the popular belief that the young, people in marketing know differently. A seminar entitled The World Belongs to the 50 Plus Age Group, organized by Focus Ha'aretz and sponsored by Bank Hapoalim, will focus on just how important this segment is. Speakers of the seminar, which is being held at Gan Oranim, will include advertising, marketing, health-care and investment specialists, as well as several socialites who are well past 50 and going strong.

28.7 The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders in the Shulamit Gardens Hotels will take place at 12.30 p.m. at the company's registered offices, 6 Hanatziv Street, Tel Aviv. Participants will be asked to receive and approve the 1996 report of the board of directors, and the profit and loss statement for 1996. They will also be asked to elect a new board of directors, appoint an auditor, approve cer-

tain financial transactions and approve an addition to the English version of the company's name.

29.7 Over 600 visitors from abroad will join an equal number of their local counterparts in Jerusalem for the 12th World Congress on Jewish Studies. The 10-day congress, which embraces a wide range of topics including Bible, history, the Jewish people, Jewish law, Jewish literature, Jewish media, the languages of the Jews, etc. will be held primarily at the Mount Scopus and Givat Ram campuses of the Hebrew University.

31.7 Magicians from around the world will be pulling rabbits out of hats, sawing people in half, drawing endless lengths of silk scarves from their sleeves and finding coins behind ears at the Tel Aviv Municipality's first International Magicians' Festival, which will take place at the Tel Aviv Museum for the Arts. Among those performing at the three-day event is Jeff McBride, winner of the magicians' contest conducted in Los Angeles by The Las Vegas Review.

SPORTS

in brief

Zohar won't play in Betar's European match

Israel midfielder Itzik Zohar will not be available for Betar Jerusalem's first match against Macedonian side Sileks Kratovo in the first preliminary round of the European Champions' League next week.

Zohar, who is currently trying out with Crystal Palace in Finland, is still a Standard Liege player. He was on loan to Betar for last season and as yet, the Jerusalem club has not secured his services as it is unclear where he will play next season. Ori Lewis

Brochard takes first Tour mountain stage

LOUDENVILLE, France (Reuters) - Laurent Brochard, king of the mountains leader, won the ninth stage of the Tour de France yesterday.

The Frenchman's first Tour success came after he had taken the first two of the four climbs on the 182 km leg from Pau to Loudenville in the heart of the Pyrenees.

Brochard's Festina team mate and compatriot Richard Virenque, one of the race favorites and third overall last year, was second.

Frenchman Cedric Vasseur just managed to retain the overall leader's yellow jersey. He came in two minutes 57 seconds behind Brochard but remains 13 seconds ahead of German Jan Ullrich, who could have snatched the lead as he finished a strong third.

Sargsian beats Steven for Hall of Fame title

NEWPORT, RI (Reuters) - Fifth seed Sargis Sargsian of Armenia picked up his first career ATP Tour title Sunday by outdueling eighth seed Brett Steven of New Zealand 7-6, 4-6, 7-5 in the final of the \$255,000 Hall of Fame Tennis Championships.

The 24-year-old Sargsian, the 1995 US national collegiate singles champion while attending Arizona State, earned a first prize of \$36,200.

The 28-year-old Steven, ranked 90th in the world, was also seeking his first career ATP Tour title. He had knocked off second seed Mark Woodforde and third seed Grant Stafford en route to his first final since appearing in his native Auckland in 1996.

Gebrselassie out of world championships

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - Ethiopia's Olympic 10,000 meters champion and world record holder Haile Gebrselassie said yesterday he would not participate in next month's world championships in Athens because the track was too hard.

"I completed the Atlanta Olympics 10,000 metres event suffering great injuries with blood flowing from my soles. It took me a long time to recover from that injury and I do not want to undergo similar sufferings," he said.

Gebrselassie said he decided to withdraw after hearing the Athens track was similar to the one used in Atlanta, which he said favored sprinters at the expense of distance runners.

Alison Nicholas wins US Women's Open

CORNELIUS, Oregon (Reuters) - Little Alison Nicholas of England pulled off a gigantic upset when she held off Hall of Fame golfer Nancy Lopez to win the US Women's Open by one stroke Sunday.

Nicholas shot an even-par 71 at Pumpkin Ridge, culminating with a one-foot putt at the final hole to become just the second British player to win the most important title in women's golf, joining 1987 champion Laura Davies.

The 40-year-old Lopez, who has won just about every other title worth winning and is a favorite of the American fans, still has never captured the biggest championship of them all. She has finished second four times.

TRAGEDY

Continued from Page 1

Firefighters stationed just outside the stadium actually witnessed the collapse and were able to quickly throw in ropes and ladders to help people out of the river, said Mondy Yitzhaki, spokesman for the National Firefighters Organization.

"That saved a lot of people,"

Yitzhaki said, adding that there were 25 crews on site. "Firefighters simply jumped into the water and started pulling them to the banks," he said.

Injured survivor Evelyn Cohen recalled how people were falling all over her as she tumbled into the river.

"I had people on top of me, but my head was above the water. Other people were under the water and couldn't move to get others out," she said.

The opening ceremony goes on

By DEREK FATTAL

Against a disturbing backdrop of the emergency services' flashing lights, the opening ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah Games went ahead last night.

A terse and visibly upset President Ezer Weizman formally launched the ceremonies with a brief statement, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood close by. A few minutes later the two men left with their respective wives to visit the injured in hospital.

Due to the impracticality of trooping the athletic delegations through the National Stadium - there was no bridge to allow them to get into

the stadium - the organizers decided to forgo that part of the proceedings.

As divers from the security forces continued

their frantic search of the murky Yarkon waters, the confused spectators in the stadium witnessed an increasingly inappropriate

brev of Israeli folk dancers, pop music and IDF music troupes, go through the motions of the opening ceremony, punctuated by a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, Israel's wars, and victims of outrages.

In accordance with past practice, the names of the Israeli athletes slain at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games were read out, once again

reviving bitter memories of Avery Brundage's haunting call for the "Games to go on."

The crowd of some 50,000 were then treated to a celebration of 100 years of Zionism, and a short fireworks display, and inter-

minable periods of dancing and festive songs. A tape recording of Yitzhak Rabin calling for "an end to bloodshed" was the prelude to a

large gospel choir singing "Hallelujah."

By the time an astronaut figure was propelled through the stadium to rap music, even chief organizer Yoram Eyal was probably beginning to squirm with discomfort at the decision to continue the ceremony.

The only tasteless moment in a totally miserable evening came with Kerri Strug ran into the stadium with the torch and handed to a solemn-looking Mickey Berkowitz who bounded up the steps to light the Maccabiah flame.

At 9:40 p.m., Eyal closed a truly awful event with a belated speech finally acknowledging the tragedy that had taken place earlier.

Games suspended

The organizing committee last night decided to suspend all competition for 24 hours.



Two young women console each other after the bridge collapse at the National Stadium last night.

(Itan Orensky, Israel Sun)

Olympic hopefuls do their best

By ORI LEWIS and HEATHER CHAIT

The five cities bidding to host the 2004 Olympic Games made a presentation at Kfar Maccabiah yesterday as they continue their hectic globe-trotting schedule to try and gain support for their efforts.

The five cities, Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Rome and Stockholm all sent representatives to lobby for their cause, but while the listeners may have been more or less interested, there was only one person who really counted in the packed hall yesterday.

That was Alex Gilady, the only Israeli on the International Olympic Committee and one of an exclusive club of 100 men and women who have the power to award the Games and all that goes with them to one of the bidding cities.

All five made a good impression, with a short speech and then video film of their prospective Olympic venue. The films used some virtual reality clips to show what their virtually-real Olympic Games would look like and it was impressive.

For the uninitiated, it is hard to distinguish between the bids, and if one did not know which of the videos was being played, one might not even have been able to recognize which city was being touted.

The politically-correct bid appeared to be Cape Town, with the Games having never been hosted on the African Continent, and South Africa having recently emerged from the dark era of apartheid.

In Cape Town's video presentation, President Nelson Mandela's presence was noticeably downplayed. Why?

Derek Hanekom, Minister for Agriculture said, "We know Mandela is our winning ticket. The message is that there is life after Mandela, and Thabo Mbeki (prominent in the video) is widely perceived as the next president, reflecting the political stability in South Africa."

What about South Africa's notorious crime rate? "It takes time to undo the problems we inherited," says Hanekom, "but in the eight years between now and then we will see significant progress."

Hanekom, a member of the cabinet Olympic bid sub-committee, was imprisoned from 1983-1986 and returned from exile to South Africa in 1990 after the ban on the African National Congress was lifted.

Gilady made the point of telling the guests that the winning bid, to be announced on September 5, was also the date on which in 1972 the 11 Israeli athletes were massacred in Munich.

Yesterday's results:
Field Hockey: Argentina 3, The Netherlands 0.
Soccer: Brazil 4, Denmark 1.

Maccabiah Hotline

For updates on venues, tickets, and other information, telephone the Maccabiah hotline - 03-6715999; or view the internet site at: <http://www.maccabiahworld.org.il>

Spanish delegation to honor Blanco's memory

Home may be far from the Spanish Maccabiah delegation, but they found this week's kidnapping and murder of political leader Miguel Angel Blanco difficult to ignore.

The team had decided to don black armbands at last night's opening ceremony and at all sports events.

"We didn't know him personally, but as Spanish citizens, we wanted to show 'Enough terror,'" said delegation head Stewart Wolfson.

With so much Jewish youth gathered in one place, it's an ideal opportunity to garner an interest in Jewish identity. The art exhibition, "The Path of the Menorah," devoted to building tools for a Jewish identity, will open tomorrow at the Kfar at 6 p.m. Pierre Gillesgame Maccabi Sports Museum Director Rivka Rabinovich (who is also chairperson of Mivzrah Edot) and Museum chairman Fred Worms will be present. Heather Chait

Seeds expected to blossom in tennis tourney

By DANIEL J. CHALFEN



Britain's Nicholas Baum must feel like Mikael Tillstrom did when he was drawn

against Pete Sampras in the first round of this year's Wimbledon.

Today at the Israel Tennis Center at Ramat Hasharon, Baum will face

Israel's Tomer Dank, the top seed in the men's singles open event and the only player in the 81-player draw with an ATP ranking.

Perhaps Baum's only relief is that he won't have to face the daunting figure of Shlomo Glickstein, former Israeli Davis Cup captain and the long-time No. 1 player who is taking part in the Masters' (over 35 event).

The men's open event has players

from 24 countries, while in the women's open draw there are 40 players from 14 countries.

"Freak results are improbable," according to John Barnett, from Britain's masters (over 55) contingent and one of his team's leaders.

"In a soccer match you can score one lucky goal and beat Manchester United, but to win in tennis, you need points, games and sets," he said, reflecting the prevailing attitude that in the tennis event, at least, the medals will go to the top seeds.

The men's second and third seeds are respectively Americans Doub Bloom and Scott Leivovitz. In the women's event, all top three seeds have WTA rankings. They are No. 1 Shiri Burstein (Israel) and Jacquelin Rosen and Alison Cohen (US).

The drop-out-and-feed-in style tournament gives those losing in the early rounds a chance to continue their efforts to gain some glory, as they can still vie for the bronze medal.

LOCAL SCENE

By HEATHER CHAIT

High-jumper Constantin Matusevich set a new national record at a meeting in Norway yesterday when he cleared the bar at 2.35 meters.

Matusevich bettered his own record by one centimeter. He won the high jump event, beating European champions Stern Hohen of Norway in the process.

Matusevich's achievement places him fifth in the world this year and is probably good enough to see him gain a medal at the IAAF World Championships which takes place in Athens next month.

Yachting: Olympians Shani Kedmi and Anat Fabrikant lead the field in the European Championships taking place in Nieuwpoort, Belgium.

After four races, the Israeli women are in front, yesterday having won the third race and

finishing fourth in the fourth race. There are eight more races to go in the championships.

Kayaking: A gold medal went to kayakers Rami Tsar and Michael Palagnov at the world championships in Poznan, Poland. The duo won the 200 meters and took the silver medal in the 500 meters. Competing in the event were 22 countries.

Bowls: Ramat Gan's bowls club is cleaning up in all the competitions, their latest conquest the zoned trips event. After winning the national league and the Wingate Fives, Ramat Gan's men and women's teams won the finals at Savyon, both by a lone shot. George Kaminsky, Yair Gavish and Avi Rakiya beat Ra'anana's Gordon Silberstein, Sam Goldblat and Gerald Sacks 13-12 while Tami Kamzel, Nina Hakak and Shosh Assiyahu came through on the last head to beat the host team's Chaya Prager, Yael Baroner and Tova Mlockier 13-12.

Golf: Eli Gidin and Solly Friedman won their

second successive better ball competition with a nine-under-par 64 strokes.

Husband and wife Norma and Cyril Kaufman were second on 67 and Sergio Liberson from Argentina partnered Siggy Meitales to take third place with 69.

The Caesarea practice driving range and greens have been inundated with visitors preparing for the Maccabiah stableford competition which begins today and the main championships from July 20-23.

Wheelchair tennis: Eyal Sartov, national wheelchair tennis champion, scored a stunning victory in the Netherlands Open Championships. Sartov beat the world champion, Ricky Moliere, in front of a home crowd 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

Sartov's current world ranking is eight.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

CLASSIFIEDS

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RE TO GO

ASSISTANCE

Sluman, 8 other Americans, disqualified from British Open

TROON, Scotland (AP) — Trying to make up six shots in the final round of the Quad City Classic at Coal Valley, Illinois, Jeff Sluman was disqualified from another tournament thousands of miles away.

He simply couldn't be at two places at one time but apparently didn't tell the Royal and Ancient Club that he wouldn't make it to the qualifying round at Irvine, Scotland, for this week's British Open.

Now he'll get a nasty letter from the R. and A.

"This is not the first time we have had to write such letters," said R. and A. secretary Michael Bonallack. "We usually get a reply from the players' management companies saying it was their fault."

"It is a serious matter because simply not turning up could deny somebody else the chance to play in the Open," Sluman was one of eight Americans and a South African who didn't show up Sunday for qualifying for Troon and were disqualified.

US Tour players Tommy Armour III, Rocco Mediate, Patrick Burke, Taylor Smith, Paul Goydos, Tom Byrum, Tom Gillis and South African Warren Schutte can all expect something in the post.

One American who is here is defending champion Tom Lehman. In fact he came a week early and walked away with a five-stroke victory over many of his Open rivals by winning the Gulfstream World Invitational at Loch Lomond.

It did his confidence a little good. "This win has put me in a very positive frame of mind," said Lehman, who triumphed over a field that included US Open titlist Ernie Els, Greg Norman and Nick Faldo.

"To play that well for four straight days isn't something you do very often. And two bogeys in 72 holes — that's something I've never done," said Lehman, who placed third, second, third in his last three US Opens but now aims to become the first player since Tom Watson 14 years ago to win back to back British Opens.

Expos' Martinez one-hits Reds

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Montreal Expos' Pedro Martinez (11-4) pitched a one-hitter on one of Cincinnati's hottest days and Mike Lansing tripled twice, going 3-for-3 before leaving with heat exhaustion, as Montreal won 2-0 on Sunday.

Martinez (11-4) pitched his league-leading eighth complete game and his third shutout in 17 starts, allowing only Bret Boone's single in the fifth inning, striking out nine, walking one and hitting one.

The game-time temperature was 87 degrees F and the artificial turf made it well over 100 on the field.

Dodgers 9, Giants 3

Dennis Reyes became the first left-hander to start for Los Angeles in nearly five years, allowing three runs and four hits in six innings as he beat visiting San Francisco in his major-league debut.

Reyes ended a major-league record 681-game streak of consecutive starts by right-handers. Bob Ojeda had been the last lefty to start for Los Angeles, getting a no-decision against Cincinnati in September 1992.

With the score tied at 3, Raul Mondesi hit his 18th homer leading off the sixth as Los Angeles handed Shawn Estes (12-3) his first loss since May 6.

Padres 13, Rockies 11

Quilvio Vera hit a go-ahead three-run double off Jeff McCurry (1-2) as San Diego rallied from an 11-8 deficit in the top of the ninth, sending Colorado to its ninth loss in 10 games. San Diego had trailed 6-0 and 10-5.

Larry Walker went 3-for-4 with four RBIs to raise his average to .406. Tony Gwynn went 1-for-6 and slipped to .398.

Pirates 5, Astros 3

Kevin Polcovich had key hits in consecutive two-run innings and Pittsburgh, which had scored only once previously in the four-game series, rallied from a 3-0 deficit to notch a home win.

Clint Sodowsky (1-1) got his first NL victory despite walking two and throwing a run-scoring wild pitch in two-thirds of an inning, and Rich Loiselle pitched a hitless ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

Cardinals 11, Cubs 5

Gary Gaetti homered for the fourth time in four days — one of four visiting St. Louis homers. The Cardinals had 20 hits.

Gaetti's three-run drive off Steve Trachsel (4-7) capped a



LA's Greg Gagne (Reuters)

five-run fifth inning. Ray Lankford hit his 19th homer to give the Cardinals a seven-run cushion in the eighth, a three-run shot off Ramon Tatis.

Marlins 9, Phillies 3

Gary Sheffield became the first Florida player to homer twice in an inning, then left with a strained hamstring as Florida won at home.

Philadelphia lost for the 14th time in 16 games and the 32nd in its last 37, dropping to a major-league worst 25-63.

It was 37th time in major league history a player homered twice in an inning, the first since Montreal's Mike Lansing on May 7.

Mets 7, Braves 6 (10)

Alex Ochoa's pinch-hit home run with two outs in the top of the 10th helped the Mets overcome a six-run deficit.

It was the Mets' third comeback from behind in the four-game set and New York's sixth victory in seven games overall.

Ochoa's second homer of the season came off Mike Bielecki (3-6) and was the Mets' major-league-leading seventh pinch-hit homer.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Rangers 4, Mariners 2

Host Seattle and Texas com-

bined for a major-league record 31 strikeouts, including 14 by Randy Johnson.

Texas went ahead in the ninth on Damon Buford's leadoff homer against Bobby Ayala (6-3); Mark McLemore's triple and Ivan Rodriguez's sacrifice fly.

Ayala fanned four, giving Seattle's pitchers 18. Texas starter Bobby Witt struck out nine and Rangers relievers Dan Patterson (6-3) and John Weteland struck out two apiece.

Weteland broke the record when he fanned Rob Ducey to end the game.

White Sox 7, Royals 6

Host Kansas City lost for a team-record 12th consecutive time, stranding 14 runners.

Frank Thomas homered for the third straight game and Albert Belle hit a three-run shot as the White Sox won their seventh straight and swept a four-game series in Kauffman Stadium for the first time. Chicago won despite walking 10.

Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 2

Shawn Green homered again to back another strong pitching performance — this time by Woody Williams.

A day after Roger Clemens struck out 16 in his return to Fenway Park, Williams (4-8) allowed three hits in 6½ innings.

Rookie Kelvin Escobar, the sixth Blue Jays pitcher, got two outs for his first career save.

Losers Tim Wakefield (3-10) pitched a six-hitter for his first complete game this year.

Tigers 3, Yankees 1

Bobby Higginson went 4-for-5 and Willie Blair (7-4) allowed five hits in seven innings.

Higginson homered and drove in all three runs for visiting Detroit, who avoided being swept in the four-game series with their first win over New York since last August 10.

Brewers 6, Orioles 4

Dave Nilsson and Jack Voigt homered off Mike Mussina (10-3) as the resurgent Brewers completed their first three-game sweep in Baltimore since 1987.

Roberto Alomar homered for the Orioles, whose six-game losing streak is their longest since an identical skid in April 1996.

Indians 12, Twins 5

Jim Thome drove in three runs with a homer and double and Brian Giles added a two-run homer for the visiting Tribe.

Bartolo Colon allowed three runs and three hits in five innings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TEAM BATTING

Team	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg.
Boston	3148	482	920	110	454	.292
Seattle	3096	529	896	143	507	.289
Cleveland	2831	466	811	117	430	.286
Anaheim	3101	460	873	85	429	.281
Minnesota	3052	427	840	89	403	.277
Texas	3015	438	835	98	419	.276
Chicago	2984	434	825	90	419	.276
New York	3040	460	844	85	440	.275
Baltimore	2969	451	883	103	431	.270
Kansas City	2875	385	763	74	367	.265
Milwaukee	2798	375	741	67	353	.264
Detroit	2907	458	760	106	430	.261
Oakland	3110	444	802	122	414	.257
Toronto	2889	331	705	70	320	.244

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

Based on 220 plate appearances	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg.
Thomas Ch	269	59	100	18	69	.372
Salmons Ch	248	40	90	11	44	.363
Jefferson Ch	245	45	82	8	37	.347
Justice Ch	222	44	76	17	48	.342
Rodriguez Tex	346	58	118	11	42	.341
McGowan Tex	248	50	84	21	48	.339
Pharmer Tex	317	67	107	16	67	.338
Ramirez Ch	270	46	91	13	49	.337
Cora Tex	317	61	106	9	34	.334
WClark Tex	273	40	91	9	33	.333
Greer Tex	325	61	107	13	47	.329
Alondra Tex	320	62	102	12	42	.319
Holter Tex	273	34	87	4	48	.319
Damon Ch	222	33	70	4	26	.315
O'Neill Tex	295	46	93	11	59	.315
Maris Tex	281	44	88	13	44	.313
Offman Ch	260	39	81	2	28	.312
Gardner Ch	334	42	104	2	50	.311
Stanley Ch	193	31	60	9	40	.311
Edmonds Tex	304	52	94	15	33	.309
O'Leary Tex	256	35	78	9	39	.305
Cramer Tex	240	30	73	8	43	.304
Gardner Tex	311	61	102	30	62	.303
Williams Tex	285	58	86	10	53	.302
Alomar Tex	278	44	84	8	34	.302
Griffey Jr Tex	329	67	99	30	85	.301
Erstad Tex	310	59	93	10	44	.300
Bryan Tex	307	54	92	12	54	.300
Thome Tex	262	57	78	24	42	.298
Phillips Tex	315	61	94	5	28	.298
Loretta Tex	249	38	74	4	29	.297
Gambi Tex	269	34	80	10	46	.297
Griffey Tex	310	43	92	6	52	.297
Cordero Tex	283	47	84	11	41	.297
Hyatt Tex	317	52	94	7	41	.297
Gardner Tex	348	63	109	14	46	.296
Surhoff Tex	274	46	81	11	54	.296
Waller Tex	313	51	92	7	42	.294
Clayton Tex	235	33	69	14	49	.294
Clayton Tex	345	45	101	11	57	.293
Hollins Tex	305	57	89	11	49	.292
Belle Tex	346	50	108	18	70	.292
Baines Tex	240	31	76	10	43	.292
Jeter NY	354	58	103	4	37	.291
Salmons NY	313	46	91	16	62	.291
Berra NY	301	45	87	17	44	.289
Clark NY	306	62	88	23	76	.289
Hammonds NY	233	41	67	14	37	.288
Kamuk NY	333	49	96	5	37	.288
Jaffray NY	244	41	76	3	22	.288
Alfonso NY	240	38	69	4	25	.287
DeWitt NY	324	41	84	7	42	.286
Nash NY	259	34	74	9	40	.286
Marcel NY	319	38	81	8	37	.285
Leyritz NY	250	41	71	10	44	.284
Marshall NY	241	38	74	10	38	.284
Johnson NY	254	40	72	21	70	.283
Suzanne NY	251	35	71	8	39	.283
Sorrento NY	259	44	73	17	42	.283
McGuire NY	244	46	86	31	71	.282
Theriot NY	207	29	58	3	19	.280
Tran NY	305	50	85	13	56	.279
Boruck NY	248	49	89	12	36	.278
Goodwin NY	316	45	88	1	17	.278
Peares NY	268	41	74	8	38	.276
Nilsson NY	304	38	84	7	43	.276
Higgins NY	263	48	72	14	50	.274
Jaeger NY	212	23	58	6	32	.274
Vizquel NY	296	48	81	2	27	.274
Ogillien NY	279	40	76	1	18	.272
Chelgado NY	257	42	69	17	48	.268
Girardi NY	225	23	60	1	29	.267
GeWilliams NY	312	44	83	7	30	.266
Easley NY	272	57	72	13	34	.265
Bray NY	304	40	80	8	38	.263
Nieves NY	243	35	64	11	43	.263
Becker NY	256	37	67	6	22	.262
Nixon NY	298	45	78	0	19	.262
Grisson NY	281	34	73	3	35	.260
Balfanz NY	344	52	90	16	55	.260
Larson NY	244	42	68	6	29	.258
Durbin NY	353	62	91	7	33	.258
King NY	287	54	74	15	59	.258
Fisher NY	306	34	78	10	50	.255
McLennan NY	220	32	56	0	15	.255
Buller NY	355	61	90	4	32	.254
UScarina NY	299	28	76	3	33	.254
Buher NY	310	58	76	22	64	.245
Alonzo NY	287	28	70	7	24	.244
Palmer NY	305	39	74	9	43	.243
Boggs NY	207	26	50	2	16	.242
Mashore NY	254	51	61	2	16	.240
Casero NY	321	47	77	18	59	.240
McWilliams NY	317	52	75	20	54	.237
Spezio NY	276	28	65	9	35	.234
Carter NY	326	40	77	11	56	.234
Snopek NY	244	26	57	5	33	.234
Sprague NY	316	45	73	10	33	.231
Ceara NY	256	23	57	1	13	.223
Paquette NY	235	23	52	8	28	.221
Bordick NY	289	35	63	3	25	.218
DCruz NY	223	21	48	1	22	.215
Brosius NY	328	43	70	6	25	.213
Buford NY	269	37	57	5	31	.212

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Based on 222	ERA	W	L	BB	SO	SV
Flintmas Ch 249	59	100	18	69		
Salmon C 268	40	90	11	44		
Jefferson Bos 226	45	82	8	37		
Justice Ch 234	44	76	17	56		
Flintmas Bos 246	58	118	11	42		
Niangua Bos 348	50	84	21	48		
Eharcine Bos 237	67	107	16	67		
Ramirez C 210	46	91	13	49		
Clark Sen 317	61	106	9	36		
Worick Tex 213	40	91	9	33		
Greer Tex 325	61	107	13	47		
Alfonso Tex 320	62	102	12	42		
Molitor Min 272	34	87	4	48		
Damon Ch 222	33	70	4	28		
Adams NY 295	46	93	11	59		
O'Brien NY 281	44	88	13	44		
Offerman Ch 264	42	99	2	28		
Glavinson Am 330	42	104	2	50		
Stanley Bos 193	31	60	9	40		
Edmonds Am 354	35	54	16	33		
O'Leary Bos 206	52	78	9	39		
Coomer Hain 304	30	73	8	42		
Tharstone NY 337	61	102	30	83		
BeWilliams NY 285	58	86	10	56		
Ballou Bal 278	44	84	8	33		
Griffey Jr Sen 329	67	99	30	85		
Estes Am 310	59	93	10	44		
Eryman Bos 302	54	92	12	62		
Thoune C 267	57	79	24	54		



Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak (left) chats with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street yesterday, before the beginning of their informal talks. (AP)

Barak meets Blair, calls Arafat

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak complained yesterday to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat about Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei's participation in an anti-Israel flag-burning demonstration in Ramallah.

Barak made his protest in a telephone conversation with Arafat in London, where both men were having separate talks with British officials.

Barak told Qurei that Qurei's behavior was not appropriate for a senior Palestinian negotiator and not conducive to progress in the peace process.

Arafat is said to have brushed aside the criticism, "but he got the message," a diplomatic source told *The Jerusalem Post*.

During an hour-long meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Barak spoke of the threat that is likely to be posed by Iran and Iraq. He said Israel is the pre-eminent power in the region and had a "window of

opportunity" that would last for six to eight years, during which it could afford to be generous.

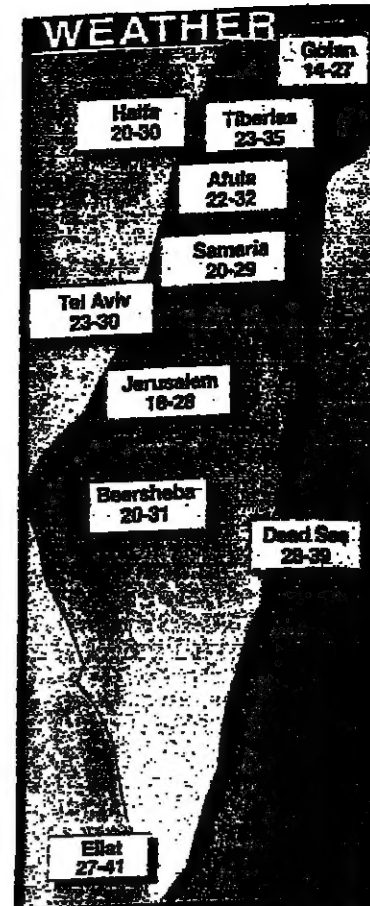
He warned, however, that if Israel did not take the opportunities available now it could face another war, after which it would be confronted by fresh negotiations at which it would confront the same demands.

Barak said he supports an active European role in the peace process and suggested that this could be a major emblem of Britain's presidency of the European Union, which starts in January 1998.

However, Blair turned the initiative aside, responding that while the United States was playing the major role, Europe should complement that role.

During his day-long visit, Barak also met British Labor Party officials who masterminded Blair's stunning electoral victory two months ago amid speculation that they might assist their Israeli counterparts.

Arafat arrived in London just hours before Barak left last night for a meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. A drop in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	F	HIGH	F	WIND
Amsterdam	15	61	25	77	cloudy
Berlin	14	57	26	79	clear
Buenos Aires	10	50	18	64	rain
Cairo	23	73	34	94	clear
Chicago	26	79	34	93	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	12	54	22	72	clear
Frankfurt	16	61	23	84	partly cloudy
Geneva	18	64	24	75	rain
Helsinki	10	50	22	72	clear
Hong Kong	27	81	31	88	cloudy
Johannesburg	18	64	21	69	clear
London	16	61	23	73	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	26	79	clear
Madrid	16	61	23	73	cloudy
Moscow	09	48	18	64	partly cloudy
Montreal	18	64	23	73	partly cloudy
New York	24	76	34	93	clear
Nice	18	64	26	79	clear
Paris	13	55	24	75	partly cloudy
Rome	17	63	31	88	clear
Stockholm	09	48	17	63	cloudy
Sydney	24	75	31	88	partly cloudy
Tokyo	21	70	22	80	clear
Toronto	16	61	27	81	partly cloudy
Vienna	16	61	27	81	partly cloudy
Zurich	16	61	23	73	rain

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the king of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds, and queen of clubs. The results of the second draw were the jack of spades, seven of hearts, eight of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

MKs call for probe into deputy mayor's words

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Knesset State Control Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) has asked the attorney-general to look into a remark by Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Haim Miller that whoever turns to the state comptroller invites punishment as a *moser*, one who betrays Jews to an enemy.

Technically under Jewish law, a *moser* can be put to death.

Cohen reminded the committee members that the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had come on the heels of rabbinical rulings that Rabin was a *moser*. He called on haredi citizens "to ignore the remarks and to continue turning to the comptroller in order to assist her in the struggle to maintain ethical behavior."

Cohen's call was supported also by MKs Yossi Katz and Eitan Cabel (Labor).

Cohen was speaking at a meeting of the committee attended by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, who was asked to comment on the role of the Housing

Ministry and other public bodies in the alleged scam with non-profit organizations during the building of a religious neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem.

Ben-Porat announced that her office had been looking into the matter since 1995 and that a report could be expected in the next few months.

A police representative said the police had also, for some time, been looking into allegations of fictitious documents being held by persons who were not entitled to cheap housing at the site.

Despite Miller's warning, several witnesses appeared before the committee, including haredi residents. One haredi man, Shimon Tajuri, related that he had joined a non-profit haredi association whose apartments had been switched, and that he himself was allocated the house belonging to someone living abroad.

Another haredi man, Haim, said that despite the fact that he had a certificate proving his eligibility for cheap housing, he did not receive an apartment.

A-G asked to probe new reserve duty bill

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

A new bill soon to be presented to the Knesset would make major changes in reserve duty, cutting the time men can serve, paying bonuses for any duty over 21 days and ensuring the reserve burden is spread more evenly.

Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen, initiator of the bill, presented the bill to reporters yesterday.

"This bill is an answer to the declining motivation problem among reservists and will significantly help spread the share of the reserve burden equally," Cohen said.

According to the bill, reservists can be called up for 25 days annual service with another 5 days for training and 6 single call-up days for a maximum total of 36 days. Presently reservists can be called for up to 50 days a year. The bill also plans for an average 18 days annual service, compared to 26 today.

The bill provides for a payment of NIS 100 for every day served over 21 days a year.

Reservists serving in combat units would be released at age 41, while those serving in other units will serve until 47-48. Under the current law, men serve until they are 54.

Also, the army would no longer be able to issue emergency call-up

orders, known as "Tzav 8," unless they are first approved by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Cohen said the bill, which took five years to draft, has the full backing of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and was prepared in coordination with the IDF.

Cohen said that at present, 70 percent of eligible Jewish men do not do reserve duty and a third of those who do take on 80% of the burden. He said only about 2% serve over 30 days a year.

Cohen said younger soldiers, between the ages of 21 and 30, are about three times cheaper to the economy than older reservists, who are more established in their careers, and that the new bill would encourage the IDF to prefer younger reservists.

Not everyone is satisfied with the proposed bill. Arich Nigri, spokesman for the Forum of Reserve Battalion and Brigade Commanders, who have pushed for compensating reservists, said the bill was a bluff.

He said most reservists only served about three weeks a year already and that the key issue of economic compensation would not work. He said his group was proposing the compensation come in the form of tax breaks.

NOW

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How do you dial? Instead of using the old international exit code ("00"), dial 013, the country code. (Without the "00"! For example, the country code for the United States is "1", and not "001".) followed by the area code and telephone number.

013 ▶ Country Code ▶ Area Code ▶ Telephone Number

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